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GM workers win victory
at Anderson plant

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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Guantánamo naval base becoming a powder keg

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Pentagon officials announced August 26 they had ordered the evacuation of more than 2,000 children and spouses of U.S. personnel at Washington's naval base at Guantánamo, Cuba, saying it was "too dangerous" for them to remain.

U.S. military authorities

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continue to expand the detention camps set up on the Guantánamo base for Cubans being intercepted in the Florida Straits by U.S. forces. After a lull of several days due to stormy weather, the flow of Cubans sailing toward Florida picked up sharply again.

In a related development, Washington won the commitment of several Caribbean governments to take part in a possible U.S.-led invasion of Haiti. U.S. Navy ships are blockading Haiti, which is next to Cuba.

At the same time, U.S. and Cuban diplomats began talks in New York September 1 to discuss the issue of the Cubans who are leaving their country by raft and who are being detained at Guantánamo.

Since the beginning of August, U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships have picked up more than 19,000 Cubans at sea. Meanwhile, military personnel at the Guantánamo base are expanding the camps to hold up to 60,000 refugees. Already in detention there are 15,000 Haitians, who fled their country's military dictatorship seeking asylum in the United States.

GE workers strike to protest layoffs

BY BILL ARTH AND NAOMI CRAIN

SCHENECTADY, New York — Thousands of workers shut down production at General Electric's plant here with a mass picket September 1. The workers, members of International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 301, were staging a 24-hour strike to protest GE's announcement of 1,200 more job cuts. Previous layoffs have reduced the union workforce from 14,000 in the early 1970s to around 4,000 today.

"We feel we've been betrayed by the company," said machinist Robert Countryman while walking the picket line."

"GE is no different than the other big companies," said one worker. "They're all downsizing, trying to make money. I've been here 32 years and they treat you like a schoolkid. This is basically a frustration strike to show the company we're still men and get back a little respect."

The layoffs come after several rounds of concessions given by the IUE. Last April, GE demanded and got 61 work rule changes, supposedly in exchange for fewer layoffs. Two months later the company pushed through a concession contract that



Protesters in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 27 condemn Washington's provocations against Cuba.
For coverage of nationwide actions opposing U.S. aggression see page 8.

In addition, the Panamanian government, after arm-twisting and promises of bribes from Washington, agreed to let 10,000 Cubans be incarcerated at U.S. military bases along the Panama Canal for six months. The Honduran government will allow another 5,000 refugees to be detained at a military base on Swan Island previously used by the Kennedy administration to launch the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

Tensions grow in Guantánamo camps

Conditions in the Guantánamo camps are subhuman. Of the six camps set up for the Cubans — surrounded by barbed wire — only one has running water. Rolando García, 31, exclaimed to reporters, "We have no clean clothes, no

shoes, no freedom." Yanelli Losano, 22, complained, "We have no soap, no showers. There is so much dust."

The Cubans do not have access to radios, television, or telephones. "We are in jail!" shouted Daniel Jardín, 32, a Havana teacher. Expressing his dislike of life in Cuba, he said, "We were in jail in Cuba and now we are in another jail. We want to go to Miami!"

Tensions are growing. Standing in the broiling sun, hundreds of bare-chested Cubans chanted, "It's bad! It's bad!" to journalists visiting the camps August 29. The Pentagon has limited the access of reporters to the camps.

The Haitians too are angry over the conditions they are subjected to. In mid-

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said, "GE has racked up their profits by being at the forefront of those driving down wages, speeding up production, and downsizing — in other words, taking their profits out of our hides."

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Iowa prison officials place Curtis in lockup

BY NORTON SANDLER

FT. MADISON, Iowa — On August 23 imprisoned union and political activist Mark Curtis was taken from his job as a janitor in the Iowa State Penitentiary hospital here and escorted by guards to a cell in a special prison lockup unit.

After being taken from his job, Curtis was handed a letter from the prison's acting security director informing him that due to a request from prison Internal Affairs he had been placed in "Investigative Segregation." Internal Affairs is a special guard unit for investigating prisoners.

A week later, a prison official informed George Eichhorn, one of Curtis's attorneys, that they claim Curtis assaulted another inmate, breaking his glasses. The official added that they believe the glasses cost \$300.

In addition, the official told Eichhorn that they have asked the Iowa Attorney General's office to look into possible criminal prosecution of Curtis.

However, Bill Kutmus, Curtis's lead counsel, told the *Militant* on August 31 that it was his understanding that the state officials were going to treat the matter as internal prison business.

Since July, Curtis has been working as
Continued on page 12

Sales drive: tell the truth about Cuba

BY SARA LOBMAN

"I'm very grateful for the *Militant*, it's the only way I can find out the facts about what's happening in Cuba," Larry Ginter, an Iowa hog farmer and vice president of the Iowa American Agriculture Movement, said in a recent phone interview.

Ginter, who is speaking out against the U.S. provocations against Cuba, is a long-time subscriber to the socialist newspaper. But over the next 10 weeks, as *Militant* supporters around the world step up their sales efforts as part of an international

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Hyundai workers in South Korea end strike

Workers at Hyundai Heavy Industries, South Korea's largest shipbuilder, agreed to end a 63-day strike August 25. The workers will receive an 11.3 percent pay raise and bonuses that will cover most of the wages lost during the walkout. The company also agreed to drop charges against 49 unionists who led an occupation of the shipyard after executives ordered a lockout in early August. The strike was considered the most costly in the company's history.

Meanwhile, the government has charged many of the 1,200 students arrested during a recent demonstration with being "pro-North Korean." The students were part of a 10,000-strong march at Seoul's National University August 14 demanding reunification with the North. The government banned the rally and sent its riot police to violently disperse the students. Protesters shouted slogans explaining that the presence of 36,000 U.S. troops on the peninsula is a barrier to unification — a statement that is against the law in South Korea.

Beijing fears inflation

The Chinese government issued orders August 24 to hold down prices of basic goods, fearing that high inflation could lead to unrest. The instructions followed a report that food prices are rising sharply. Inflation of retail goods in 35 major cities in July stood at an annual rate of 24 percent. The price of food rose nearly 32 percent from July 1993, with grain prices increasing 58 percent and vegetables prices 30 percent.

Nuclear weapons in Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif, former prime minister of Pakistan, asserted on August 24 that the country's current government has nuclear weapons. In a speech given at a rally in the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir, he stated that an attack on Pakistan from India could trigger "a nuclear hol-



Demonstrators confront Japanese prime minister Tomiichi Murayama August 23 in Manila. The women are demanding compensation for being used as sex slaves for Japanese troops during World War II. Protesters were led by Rosa Henson, the first Filipina to end decades of silence in 1992 and tell of her experience as one of 200,000 so-called comfort women.

caust as both countries possess atomic bombs." Both governments deny having nuclear weapons.

Indian officials have also alleged that Pakistani secret service agents organized terrorist bomb attacks in Bombay last year. Sharif's remarks inflamed already tense relations between the two governments, which are involved in a territorial dispute over the region of Kashmir. In response to the allegations, the government of India demanded international action to halt Pakistan's nuclear program. Pakistan's prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, called Sharif's statement "highly irresponsible."

Accord reached in West Bank

The Israeli government and negotiators for the Palestine Liberation Organization

(PLO) reached an agreement August 24 giving Palestinians control of education, health and welfare services, tax collection, and tourism in the West Bank.

As part of the agreement Israeli officials handed control over the Ramallah school district, which is still under Israeli occupation, to the Palestinian Authority. Israeli officials said they would turn over the running of the remaining six school districts in the West Bank by August 29. Tel Aviv, however, has not announced plans to withdraw its forces from these areas.

PLO chairman Yasir Arafat said that Palestinian authorities would have no trouble administering the districts even though they lack funds. Governments that have pledged donations to help finance these civil functions have refused to turn over most of the \$2.4 billion promised. Donors are also withholding \$600 million in aid pledged for this year, including funds earmarked for teachers salaries and other school operating expenses.

over the next few years.

Haitian activist killed

On August 28 unidentified gunmen killed Jean-Marie Vincent, a leader of the Heads Together peasant movement, near his home in the Turgeau neighborhood of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, the Haitian press agency said. Vincent was a well-known supporter of Haiti's deposed president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He had saved Aristide's life on Aug. 23, 1987, when men armed with machetes attacked an election campaign convoy. Vincent was wounded in the head when he threw himself on top of Aristide who escaped unharmed. A month earlier, hundreds of members of the Heads Together organization had been massacred by gangs loyal to the country's military rulers.

Rallies defend immigrants

Two rallies were held at the U.S.-Mexico border in San Ysidro, California, and El Paso, Texas, on August 20 to defend immigrant workers.

The event in San Ysidro was called to protest Proposition 187, a California ballot initiative that obligates public employees to inform the Immigration and Naturalization Service of anyone "suspected" of being an undocumented immigrant.

The protest was initially called in response to an anti-immigrant mobilization. United We Stand, the group organized by Texas billionaire Ross Perot, had announced plans for a rightist action, but canceled it later.

"The attacks on immigrants are part of a racist scapegoating tactic to pit workers against workers and hide the fact that capitalism is the problem," Ken Riley, Socialist Workers candidate for California governor, told Televisa, a Mexican TV network. Nearly 100 defenders of immigrant rights participated in the event. Many pledged to help build another rally against Proposition 187 in Los Angeles October 16.

About 75 people turned out in El Paso in response to increasing anti-immigrant attacks organized by Washington along the U.S.-Mexican border.

The U.S. government has added 458 new immigration patrol agents on the 20-mile border between El Paso and Juarez, Mexico, and is planning to build in the area a 10-foot-high wall with barbed wire that will extend two feet below the ground.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

John Evenhuis, a Young Socialists member in Los Angeles, and Eileen Kelly, a Young Socialists member in Salt Lake City, contributed to this week's column.

THE MILITANT

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Militant reporter Martin Koppel at co-operative farm near Holguin, Cuba, 1993.

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Truckers in S. Africa push back bosses

BY GREG ROSENBERG

Thousands of truck drivers shut down major roadways across South Africa August 22-24 in a fight for higher wages and better working conditions. Dubbing themselves the Turning Wheel International Workers' Movement, the mostly nonunion and overwhelmingly Black truckers ended highway blockades following mediation by Labor Minister Tito Mboweni of the African National Congress. The trucking bosses association promised the formation of a nationwide bargaining council to discuss workers' demands, and said wages would be "changed radically."

The drivers took action as tens of thousands of workers in a wide array of industries across the country have extended a series of strikes. Common demands are for wage increases that outstrip inflation and rapid implementation of affirmative action measures to destroy the legal segregation in employment set up under the apartheid system of superexploitation of Black workers.

Millions of South African Blacks live at the knife's edge of survival, while corporate executives draw an average of at least 40 times the pay of workers. Seventy-two children out of every 1,000 die before they reach the age of five. The mortality rate for children who are Black is seven times the rate of those who are white.

The drivers struck spontaneously in an industry where the minimum wage is about \$400 a month. They demanded higher and standardized wages, overtime pay, and better conditions, including decent stopover facilities for long-haul truckers. Workers also want to put an end to paying their own traffic fines, since they are harassed by traffic cops while being forced to keep tight delivery schedules on cross-country trips.

Spontaneous action

Using citizens' band radios, drivers appealed for support, and won it in a massive way at points on three major highways. Some 3,000 vehicles blockaded the N3, the major highway between Durban and Johannesburg, at the Mooi River toll plaza. Truckers and their supporters blocked another highway between Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as the roadway outside Port Elizabeth.

The campaign began without prior notice or official union support, but quickly won backing from the Transport and General Workers Union (T&GWU).

The premier of KwaZulu/Natal province, Frank Mdlalose of the rightist Inkatha Freedom Party, condemned the strike, saying it amounted to economic sabotage. Ian Moss, chief executive of the employers' Road Freight Association, said he was "very, very depressed that this is making the impression that it does. It is a very

New staff writer joins 'Militant'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

With this issue, Paul Mailhot joins the *Militant* staff.

Mailhot served an earlier stint on the paper from March 1992 to April 1993. He was the *Militant*'s labor editor when he left the staff to take full-time responsibilities for the Socialist Workers Party.

Mailhot brings a range of experiences as a long-time socialist activist and a member of several industrial trade unions, which will help strengthen the staff. Before moving to New York in 1992 Mailhot worked for Kennecott Copper in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he was a member of the United Steelworkers of America. He helped organize a number of demonstrations against the U.S. war in the Persian Gulf while in Salt Lake City in 1991. Mailhot was the organizer of the executive committee of the SWP branch there. He is a member of the SWP National Committee.

As the labor editor of the paper previously, Mailhot wrote extensively on developments in the union movement, including contributing on-the-scene reports from the 1992 strike of Caterpillar workers. He also wrote articles on a wide array of other topics, such as political developments in Iran and the policies of the new Clinton administration.



Miners march in Johannesburg to press wage, affirmative action demands.

problematic message to send to the rest of the world." Moss said that the bosses were upset with the government for not clamping down on the strike, and are worried that the strikers' victory would encourage more of the same.

T&GWU spokesperson Julius Matroose said, "We understand that the ANC has to try by all means to build the economy that is ruined, but our members, who voted the ANC into power, don't understand when they say look, we have to wait." Matroose added, "If it was the olden era, believe me, this strike would have been smashed a long time ago."

Meanwhile, striking auto workers rejected an employer offer of a 10-percent wage increase on August 20. The offer comes within 1 percent of workers' wage demands, but falls short of their fight to implement affirmative action in the auto plants.

Officials of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa expressed support for the offer, but were voted down.

Workers want wage gaps between Blacks and whites closed within two years — not four as the employers proposed — and expanded education and training opportunities to increase their skills. Attempts by Mercedes-Benz and Delta to start a back-to-work movement failed as too few union members showed up to get the lines running.

Miners reach tentative settlement

On August 29, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) announced a tentative settlement with the mine owners, fore-stalling a strike. The NUM had initially demanded wage increases between 12 and 15 percent, and settled for 9.75 percent.

The South African Press Association quoted NUM president James Motlatsi as saying, "It would be the biggest betrayal in our history if, after all the sacrifices endured by our people, the ANC became an instrument of the capitalist class in South Africa in general or the Chamber of Mines in particular. But it would be dangerous to

think that could not happen. The Chamber of Mines has always used governments as its servants."

Motlatsi argued that the expectations of the labor movement can be fulfilled "by constantly putting pressure on the political organization of the ANC outside of Parliament and apart from the government."

South African president Nelson Mandela, who is also president of the ANC, told Parliament in a speech on August 18 that "millions have suffered deprivation for decades and they have the right to seek redress." Mandela added, "Questions have been asked about the slow pace in ending racism in some workplaces. Legislation exists or is being prepared to deal with these problems. But legislation on its own cannot change these attitudes."

The South African president stated, "Workers...have to advance their interests through the collective bargaining system. At the same time, the new situation obliges all of us to take on board the broader questions of increased investments, investor confidence, and requirements of economic growth and equity."

Mandela called for speedier implementation of the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Program, and voiced his support for a truth commission to expose the crimes committed under apartheid rule.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Desmond Tutu joined the cries of various South African newspapers and others who have criticized the salaries of members of Parliament. In a widely reported statement, he said some had "stopped the gravy train only long enough to get on. They cannot, with any integrity and credibility, ask the unions to moderate their claims for higher pay." Members of Parliament receive a salary of about \$53,000, and recently voted themselves a raise.

A statement by the ANC's National Executive Committee reiterated its "commitment to the total eradication of all forms of corruption and any 'gravy train,' arising from the apartheid era, in the government." The statement added that the ANC leadership was setting up a subcommittee to investigate the issue.

Strikers keep Nigeria's oil fields shut

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In the face of stepped up government attacks, oil workers in Nigeria have vowed to continue their nine-week strike. The workers are demanding an end to the military dictatorship and the release of Moshood Abiola, who won the June 1993 presidential elections and has been imprisoned by the government on treason charges for the past two months.

Gen. Sani Abacha, the regime's military leader, announced August 17 that the executives of the two main oil workers unions, the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), were being dismissed and that the government would appoint administrators in their place. The workers were ordered to return to work by August 22.

Several days later, NUPENG leader Frank Kokori was arrested in a military crackdown against leaders of the pro-democracy movement. Some 25 opposition leaders were arrested and detained in two waves of arrests in Lagos and the northern city of Kaduna August 19 and 20.

"We are going underground to continue with the strike," Wariebi Agamene, president of NUPENG, said. "The strike has not been called off."

'Sustain the strike'

The former executive members of NUPENG announced August 21 that they had formed a new committee called the Joint Action Committee to direct the union's activities. The union leaders issued a directive to their membership that they should ignore the government and that nobody should go to work.

"We salute the courage of our members and hereby direct them to sustain the strike action until the government meets our demands in concrete terms," said a statement issued by PENGASSAN, which appeared in the August 19 edition of the Nigerian

daily *Vanguard*.

The officers of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) were also dismissed. The NLC is a state-sponsored federation of 40 trade unions that is widely seen as a tool of the military regime. Three times in the past month it has delayed or postponed a general strike to protest the regime's actions.

In another move to break the oil workers strike, which has cut exports of Nigerian oil by more than half, Nigeria's minister of labor and productivity requested retired employees in the oil industry to register immediately for jobs. An appeal was made to oil workers to return to work as well.

Anglo-Dutch Shell, which operates about half of Nigeria's 2 million barrels per day oil industry, announced the temporary closing of its Forcados terminal, from where 500,000 barrels are exported daily.

Workers, students join protests

The oil workers are not alone in fighting the dictatorship. Nigerian University teachers went on strike August 22, defying a government warning that they could lose their jobs. The Academic Staff Union of Universities said it is joining a campaign for an end to military rule and called its members out to press for the formation of a broad-based government of national unity.

In Benin City, university students initiated a march August 16 that was soon joined by others and ended with two big hotels owned by government officials being burned down. The marchers also threw petrol bombs at the homes and offices of present and former government officials. The protesters refused to allow firefighters to put out the blazes. The cops responded by attacking two universities in the city, killing four students.

The Campaign for Democracy, a human rights coalition, issued a communique August 18 calling on all the strikers "not to weaken" and asking Nigerians to make the

country "ungovernable" by the military. "No force can defeat the will of the people," the communique stated.

Government attacks against the pro-democracy movement also include terrorist assaults. Attackers came to the homes of human rights lawyer Gani Fawehinmi and retired air force Gen. Daniel Suleiman, a member of the National Democratic Coalition of politicians and retired generals against continued military rule. The thugs set a car ablaze and seriously wounded four of the men guarding the homes. Later, men in a bus drove up to Fawehinmi's office and raked the building with bullets. "This is state terrorism," Suleiman told the Associated Press.

In Washington, D.C., more than 125 people marched outside the Nigerian embassy August 25 in a noontime demonstration to support striking oil workers in Nigeria and demand an end to the military government there. The action was called by the Metropolitan D.C. AFL-CIO.

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Police in Canada set up racist group

BY ROBERT SIMMS
AND GEORGE ROSE

TORONTO — The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), Canada's secret police force, employed an informer who helped found and lead an ultrarightist, white-supremacist outfit called the Heritage Front from 1989 to this year.

The August 14 *Toronto Sun* reported that CSIS paid Grant Bristow \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year to infiltrate ultrarightist groups operating in Toronto. Soon after going on the government payroll, Bristow helped found the Heritage Front.

The front is well-known in Toronto for its violent assaults on antiracist activists and for its telephone "hotline" with taped anti-Semitic and racist messages.

Gerry Lincoln, a Heritage Front member, told the August 16 *Globe and Mail* that he was sorry Bristow had left the group. He was "one of the most helpful and contributing members of the Heritage Front I'd like to have ten more like him." Lincoln said the group should ask Bristow to return to being a member.

Another Heritage Front member, Gary Shipper, interviewed on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) television network August 15, said Bristow urged front members to violent action. "He was provoking violent behavior. He furnished us with a list of 60 names, antiracists, with their addresses and phone numbers, and he wanted us to trash their houses and make their lives miserable." Shipper added, "The man was an asset to

our organization, it's that simple."

Other front members told the media they became suspicious of Bristow after he and a friend were stopped in their car by Toronto police. Despite finding a loaded gun in the trunk, police did not charge the two men.

Leaders of the Canadian Jewish Congress believe Bristow came to them posing as a journalist to obtain information about their activities and members. Other media reports say that Bristow passed on information about Canadian Jews to Thomas Metzger, leader of a violent racist group in California.

Two years ago Bristow and other Heritage Front members served as security guards for leaders of the Reform Party, a right-wing organization that scored major gains in the last federal election in Canada.

Sympathetic cops of Toronto's west-end 22 Division often handed Bristow information from their computer data banks while he was a member of the front. On August 29, CBC TV reported that Bristow was on a first name basis with several detectives and through his police friends was able to tap into the national police computer system files.

Spying on CBC

The August 21 *Toronto Star* reported that CSIS was spying on the CBC. A classified government document prepared for Canadian cabinet ministers last year said that CSIS used a "mole" inside the Heritage Front to obtain information about a



CASAW

Royal Canadian Mounted Police facing striking miners in 1992. RCMP arrested former government official who spilled the beans on Bristow case.

CBC investigation into ties between the front and Canadian troops in Somalia.

During the time Bristow was being paid by CSIS and organizing his "dirty tricks" unit of the Heritage Front, several antiracist groups were hit with violent attacks. Rodney Bobiwash of the Toronto Native Centre and a founder of Klansbusters, an antiracist group that monitors white supremacists, told an August 16 news conference that he had received death threats and other harassment during the past two years.

The Native Centre and the Pathfinder bookstore in Toronto were both vandalized on the same night on Nov. 28, 1992. Swastikas were spray-painted in front of the Native Centre and a Star of David was painted on the front window of the Pathfinder bookstore.

Two months earlier, vandals had thrown rocks through the bookstore window, causing \$800 in damage. No charges were ever laid. In 1993, several immigrant workers were targets of a series of organized attacks by white supremacists in Toronto. One Tamil worker was killed and another suffered permanent brain damage.

Antiracist groups have protested the government's role in organizing and funding a violent racist organization, while editorials in the big-business press and members of Parliament have called for government inquiries into whether CSIS is "exceeding its mandate." So far the government's response has centered on trying to uphold the wall of secrecy around its political police. CSIS refuses to confirm whether Bristow was an informer.

On August 25 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) arrested Brian McInnis, a former government press secretary who acknowledged leaking a CSIS memo about Bristow. McInnis said he handed over the document because he was "disgusted" that the government paid lavishly a violent racist. RCMP searched McInnis's home and seized documents. The terms of their search warrant have been sealed under a court order. McInnis was later released but may be charged under the Official Secrets Act. If charged and convicted he could face up to 14 years in prison. The *Toronto Star* has also been threatened with prosecution under the Official Secrets Act if editors do not return a document concerning Bristow.

Mark Curtis appeals judge's ruling

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — On August 12, William Kutmus and Jeanne Johnson, attorneys for imprisoned union and political activist Mark Curtis, filed a notice of appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Last year Curtis filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus in federal court challenging his 1988 conviction on frame-up charges of

rape and burglary. District Court judge Charles Wolle ruled against Curtis's appeal in July, stating that "petitioner's theories for habeas relief are without merit" and arguing that Curtis had not met the heavy legal burden required to overturn his conviction.

The notice of appeal reiterates the central violations of federal constitutional rights in his trial that are the grounds to throw out his conviction.

These include the judge's failure in the 1988 trial: (1) to instruct the jury that Curtis's uncontested evidence that he had an alibi — that he was elsewhere with dozens of witnesses at the time the cops claimed he was committing rape — was grounds for acquittal, (2) to allow Curtis to present evidence that the central witness against him — the arresting officer — had previously been suspended from the police department for lying and manufacturing evidence, and (3) to present evidence that the police knew of his political activity and had good reason to frame him up.

Curtis's appeal points to the legal fact

that "the Petitioner need not show that he should prevail on the merits; rather he must demonstrate that the issues are debatable among jurists of reason; that a court could resolve the issues in a different manner; or that the questions are adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further."

At the same time Curtis's attorneys filed his notice of appeal, they also filed an application for a Certificate of Probable Cause to Appeal with Judge Wolle. This step is required by federal law of everyone seeking to appeal a district court denial of habeas corpus relief. The law requires that Curtis go back to Judge Wolle's court and ask him, in effect, to take a position contradicting his earlier ruling denying Curtis's appeal. To allow Curtis's legal challenge to proceed in Federal Appeals Court, Wolle must rule that even though he denied his habeas petition, Curtis does, in fact, have a strong case arguing for overturning his conviction. The next step in the appeals process will be Wolle's consideration of whether to grant Curtis the Certificate of Probable Cause.

Iowa makes prisoners' parole efforts harder

BY BILL KALMAN

DES MOINES, Iowa — Getting paroled from prison in the state of Iowa has just been made a little harder.

Last year annual parole hearings for every prisoner were eliminated. Instead, the parole board decides in which cases to grant a hearing. A further move to restrict inmates' access to the parole board was unveiled this summer. Now if you are granted a hearing, you won't actually be present.

The board has begun using the state-owned fiber-optic network to conduct parole hearings on closed circuit television. The system is currently limited to inmates at two state prisons at Mt. Pleasant and Oakdale. Eventually, all eight of Iowa's prisons will be hooked into this system.

When the first hearings were conducted this way, the parole board was in one city, the affected inmates in prison in another city, and family and friends in a third location.

Walter Saur, chairman of the parole board, dismissed any suggestion that conducting parole meetings this way would diminish a prisoner's ability to affect the decisions of board members.

"Ninety percent of what we do right now is on paper," Saur told the *Des Moines Register*. "We are just confirming it by observing their body language."

Bill Kalman is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 in Des Moines, Iowa.

BY SARA LOBMAN

A new version of the Clinton administration's so-called crime bill was approved by the U.S. Congress at the end of August. The legislation, which targets the democratic rights of working people, had failed a vote in the House of Representatives in mid-August. It passed in the House 10 days later after harsher provisions were added. The U.S. Senate gave its stamp of approval August 25.

U.S. president Bill Clinton made passage of the bill a central goal of his administration. He hailed the decision as a major victory. "This crime bill is going to make every neighborhood in America safer," he proclaimed the day after the vote. Clinton is expected to sign the bill into law in early September.

The bill, passed with bipartisan support, maintains most of the provisions of earlier proposals.

It expands the use of the death penalty to include 60 federal crimes, up from two; mandates life sentences for people convicted of three violent felonies or drug offenses if the third conviction is a federal

crime; and allows children as young as 13 years old to be tried as adults in federal court.

Under the new law, almost \$9 billion will be allocated to local governments to hire up to 100,000 additional cops. Another \$8 billion will go to construct and operate prisons. Tens of millions of dollars are set aside just for boot camps for young people convicted of crimes. Almost \$2 billion is provided to reimburse states for costs incurred in imprisoning undocumented workers.

New slew of anti-working-class laws

In addition, the bill, which was passed by a vote of 235 to 195 in the House and 61 to 38 in the Senate, includes a whole new slew of anti-working-class provisions that were added under the guise of fighting violence against women.

Under a "sexual predators" clause, some individuals convicted of sexual abuse charges will be required to register with state cops for the rest of their lives. They will be forced to notify officials of their address at least four times a year. The author-

ities will be allowed to share this information with local community organizations.

The legislation also allows mere accusations of past sexual offenses to be admissible in court, even if there were no charges or conviction. And it permits disclosure of AIDS test results of those convicted of rape, another erosion of privacy protections.

An up-to-the-last-minute campaign was waged by a large minority in both the House and Senate to defeat the bill. Most of those opposing the measures argued that they weren't harsh enough. A set of 10 amendments proposed by some Senators, for example, would have toughened criminal penalties, including imposing mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes and certain drug transactions.

"We want a no-nonsense crime bill," Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole said, voicing his opposition to the bill. "We're not going to be ignored."

Jack Fields, a representative from Texas, called the bill "a touchy-feely piece of legislation that gives new meaning to the phrase hug-a-thug."

'Militant' sub drive begins

Continued from front page

campaign to win new readers, thousands of other working people, revolutionary-minded youth, political activists, and others will be introduced to the paper, its Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Today, it's clearer than ever why fighting workers and youth need the *Militant*. *Militant* staff writer Greg Rosenberg is preparing to leave for South Africa as part of a reporting team to cover the September 7-10 convention of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martin Koppel and Miami correspondent Laura Garza are headed to Cuba.

The *Militant* is the only place to accurately get the facts about strikes and other labor struggles around the world.

Distributors already report increased interest in the socialist press. Alan Harris reports from London that 70 people bought copies of the *Militant* at the Notting Hill carnival. The annual fair attracts many working people from the West Indies, as well as other Blacks. Harris reports that most discussions were on Cuba.

In Detroit, Michelle Jackson reports that supporters of the socialist press sold 3 *Militant* subscriptions, 1 *Perspectiva Mundial* sub, and 66 single copies of the *Militant* in five days of campaigning against the U.S. war drive against



Militant distributors in Miami got a good response at an August 22 demonstration to protest treatment of Haitian refugees.

Cuba. Distributors in Detroit were so enthusiastic about their success, Jackson reports, that they decided to start the circulation campaign a week early! They set goals of 12 *Militant* subscriptions, 2 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 3 copies of *New International* for "week zero" of the drive.

Joanne Kuniansky, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, says that she and a campaign supporter sold 10 copies of the *Militant* and a six-month subscription to taxicab drivers at the Newark airport in less than an hour. Many of the cab drivers are from Haiti. The man who sub-

scribed explained that it was a struggle for him to read in English, but given the events in Cuba, now was the time to try.

The circulation campaign begins September 3. Distributors will find receptive audiences at Labor Day events in the United States, unionists on picket lines and among students on campuses that open for fall semester.

In two weeks the *Militant* will print the results of the first week of the drive. To be included on that chart, subscriptions need to arrive in the *Militant* business office no later than Tuesday, September 6, at 12 noon E.S.T.

'I want to read that literature'

BY SETH GALINSKY

MIAMI — "My parents will kill me!" one Cuban-American student at Florida International University, told a *Militant* salesperson. "But I want to read that literature."

She was one of 23 students who bought copies of the *Militant* from a Socialist Workers and Young Socialists team on the campus August 29. Half of the students who bought the paper were Cuban-Americans. A dozen signed up to learn more about an upcoming Young Socialists class series.

"I'm for tightening the embargo and I oppose the revolution," said another student. "But I want to read the other side." She bought the *Militant* and took literature on the Socialist Workers election campaign.

One socialist campaigner pointed to a front-page picture on the August 29 issue of the *Militant* that shows a demonstration of thousands of supporters of the Cuban revolution in Mariel, Cuba. "They don't publish these pictures in the news media in Miami," he explained. "They lie to us because they don't want us to

know why most Cuban workers continue to support the revolution."

"I know that the government lies to us," a student who stopped by the table added. "And I think it's wrong that they won't let the Cubans in. I think they should let everyone in, Cuban, Haitian, or whoever."

The interest in the recent events was not unique to Florida International University. A socialist campaign team in Miami Beach two days earlier had similar discussions.

Many Cubans passed by the socialists' table there. Some just looked at the literature and the prominently displayed poster of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro and walked away.

Others stopped to talk. "The right-wing Cubans here are the most racist," said one Afro-Cuban. "I've been unemployed for six months now. This system here is no good."

Two elderly Cuban men looked at some of the books on the table. While they were there an older Cuban woman came by the table.

"Don't you know that there's hunger in Cuba," she stated, visibly upset with the socialist literature.

"Don't you know that there's hunger in Miami," one of the Cuban men shouted back.

"You're a bunch of ingrates," she responded. "Look at all the United States has done for you."

"Hey, this is a free country señora, I can say whatever the hell I please," he answered, laughing.

After a couple hours the Socialist Workers campaigners had sold six copies of the *Militant* and one subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Socialist unionists campaign to sell book of Castro, Guevara speeches

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Socialists who are active in industrial trade unions are campaigning to get out the truth about the Cuban revolution to counter the slanders by the big-business media and the U.S. government. At the center of this effort is promoting and selling among co-workers the book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's Cold War 'gainst Cuba Doesn't End*.

The book, published by Pathfinder, explains the reasons behind Washington's policy of implacable hostility and unrelenting economic pressure against the Cuban people. The publication contains four speeches delivered over a span of 20 years at the United Nations by two of the most authoritative representatives of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara.

Union*	Goal
ACTWU	8
IAM	40
ILGWU	10
OCAW	9
UAW	35
UFCW	6
USWA	10
UTU	15

*See chart for complete names of unions.

WHERE WE STAND start of week one

SOLD 0%

SHOULD BE 0%

	Militant		Perspectiva Mundial		New International		
	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	sold	goal
Australia	30			8		18	
Britain							
London	70			3		37	
Manchester	50			3		20	
Sheffield	40			1		14	
Britain total	160			7		71	
Belgium	2			2		1	
Canada							
Montreal	80			25		45	
Toronto	90			17		35	
Vancouver	75			10		20	
Canada total	245			52		100	
France	4			5		6	
Greece	11			1		6	
Iceland	13			1		4	
New Zealand							
Auckland	75			5		30	
Christchurch	35			1		8	
Wellington	5			0		4	
New Zealand total	115			6		42	
Puerto Rico	2			5		4	
Sweden	40			20		15	
United States							
Albany	10			1		3	
Albuquerque	7			2		2	
Atlanta	105			15		25	
Birmingham	75			5		15	
Boston	115			36		52	
Brooklyn	110			36		65	
Chicago	145			32		50	
Cincinnati	10			5		4	
Cleveland	95			16		20	
Denver	5			3		2	
DesMoines	85			36		35	
Detroit	100			11		27	
Edinboro	6			1		3	
Ft.Madison	2			1		2	
Greensboro	65			4		15	
Hartford	5			1		4	
Houston	60			12		12	
LosAngeles	230			101		105	
Miami	120			55		70	
Morgantown	55			1		17	
NewHaven	10			2		8	
NewYork	145			40		70	
Newark	140			35		50	
Peoria	30			3		10	
Philadelphia	115			30		47	
Pittsburgh	105			12		26	
Portland	2			1		2	
SaltLakeCity	110			16		35	
SanFrancisco	150			42		70	
Seattle	80			12		23	
St.Louis	80			6		22	
TwinCities	125			17		35	
Washington,D.C.	85			30		35	
U.S.total	2,582			620		961	
TOTAL	3,204			727		1,228	
DRIVE GOALS	3,300			700		1,250	

IN THE UNIONS

AUSTRALIA

AMEU

FPU

NUW

Australia Total

BRITAIN

AEEU

NUM

RMT

TGWU

Britain Total

CANADA

ACTWU

CAW

IAM

USWA

Canada Total

NEW ZEALAND

UFBGWU

ELU

MWU

N.Z. Total

SWEDEN

Foodworkers

Metalworkers

Transportworkers

Sweden Total

UNITED STATES

ACTWU

IAM

ILGWU

OCAW

UAW

UFCW

UMWA

'A revolution of workers'

Printed below is an editorial that appeared in the July 25 *Trabajadores*, weekly newspaper of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), published in Havana, Cuba. That issue of *Trabajadores* celebrated the 41st anniversary of the July 26, 1953, attack by Cuban revolutionaries on the Moncada barracks, a milestone in the successful struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista. Translation and subheadings are by the *Militant*.

From the days when the tiny army of heroes came together to attack the Moncada, at a time when principles were signed with blood, until today, when an entire people defends the cause of the homeland, one thought has remained constant in the mind, the words, and the actions of Fidel [Castro] and the principal revolutionary leaders: this is a revolution of the workers, of the peasants, of the students, of the poor.

At this time, when it seems fashionable in the world not to even mention certain words that bring to mind the language of socialism, it is Fidel who from every platform defends the just, noble, and rational character of the proletariat's cause.

Those who are upset that Cuba unequivocally upholds the concept of socialism and independence should also know that it would be impossible for this country to be sovereign without the workers exercising power and making their revolution.

Let there be no mistake about it: in the hardest times, in the times of greatest danger, the revolution's survival — as we well know — is not guaranteed by some metaphysical historical determinism or by some kindhearted destiny that will save it from innumerable opposing forces.

Revolution depends on workers

The existence of the revolution depends on the battle we Cubans wage, and above all, on the workers, its social base par excellence — the human force that is most capable and decisive, and has the greatest stake in not returning to a past where power would be taken from its hands, where those who labor would become second-class citizens.

Given the conjunctural crisis we now confront, with its resulting black market, speculators, and criminals, with the rise of "livelihoods" that have nothing to do with work, one can imagine what the fate of this society would be if ever these things — which for us today are pure, detestable disorder — became the norm and the philosophy of life.

Because there is not a single one of these scourges that is not rooted in selfishness, in the law of the jungle that prevails in all societies where the workers are excluded from power.

We are now compelled to make certain concessions. Nevertheless, fixing our eyes and our hearts on the Moncada Program and the essential socialist conquests, every



Militant/Aaron Ruby

Young woman working in a cigar factory in Havana. "It would be impossible for this country to be sovereign without the workers exercising power and making their revolution," *Trabajadores* wrote.

Cuban revolutionary must pledge that this will never become a society of marketers and bosses where even dignity and justice are bought and sold.

Here in Cuba, the country demands that we fight to the end to maintain and strengthen this society of workers. When the time comes, it will be the workers who will know how to rein in and control the

market and neutralize its concomitant effects in a world that tends to generalize the depoliticization of the working class and of the toilers in general.

There are a whole series of campaigns and arguments in favor of restoring the former culture of frustration, which claimed geographical fatalism and the impossibility

Continued on Page 10

—YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD—

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The Young Socialists, a communist youth organization formed in early August during a five-day socialist conference in Oberlin, Ohio, has begun to spread its wings internationally and recruit new members, from Belfast to London and Montreal.

"At first we were just going to build an organization in the United States, which would have fraternal relations with socialist youth in other countries," said Jack Willey, a member of the Young Socialists steering committee. "But there were young people from Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom at our founding meeting. They described how the same political and economic factors that are driving young peo-

ple in the United States to look for an alternative to the criminal capitalist system are affecting young workers and students around the world.

"Most of these young people wanted to be part of the same movement we're building," Willey continued, "but in many cases there were just a couple of individuals. So we figured it would be better to be in the same organization. This will make it easier for the youth we know are politicizing in every country to join the communist movement."

Young Socialists in Belfast

This assessment was proven true in Belfast, where I went as part of an international team to participate in an August 14 demonstration calling for the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

The first time you visit Belfast — or anywhere else in occupied Northern Ireland — can be a shock. British troops patrol the streets in tank-like vehicles, routinely pointing their rifles at working people going about their business. The police, known as the Royal Ulster Constabulary, are also imposing, riding around in grey armored vans. But there is space open to discuss politics, and the discussions we had with young people there were similar to New York, London, or anywhere else.

Sean Garland, 18, was excited to find our table with the *Militant*, Pathfinder books, and information on the Young Socialists at the start of the march. He decided to join "because I think the only way to fight back against this society is to be a socialist."

Like most Young Socialists, Garland had already been involved in a whole range of political struggles, from the fight for women's right to choose abortion and actions for gay rights to opposing Washington's war against Iraq in 1991.

A few days later we went to a postal workers demonstration against privatizations and then set up a literature table in downtown Belfast. A sign over the table read: "Read the 'Militant.' Defend abortion rights. Support the Cuban revolution. Solidarity with workers struggles. Join the Young Socialists." In a little over an hour we sold 10 copies of the *Militant* and five people signed up for information on the Young Socialists and its activities.

One young man snatched up a book and a pamphlet by Malcolm X. He had read the revolutionary's autobiography and wanted to read his speeches. Another woman was particularly interested in the *Militant's* coverage of the fight to defend abortion rights in the United States and of the formation of the Young Socialists.

The international Young Socialists are also off to a good start on the other side of the Irish Sea. Two new members signed up at a Militant Labor Forum in London August 22 where YS member Gaetan Whiston and I kicked off a discussion on why we launched the organization and our perspectives.

Defend Cuban revolution

The Clinton administration had just announced its tightening of the embargo against Cuba and the policy of interning people leaving Cuba at Guantánamo Naval Base. We said defending the socialist revolution in Cuba against this aggression should be a top priority for young socialists today. One of the young people who came to the forum had just returned from a solidarity brigade to Cuba.

Whiston, a student from London, also explained why the Young Socialists look to the working class as the only force that can change society. He described his experiences going to the picket lines of strikers at Caterpillar in Pennsylvania and restaurant workers in New York during the week after the conference when the YS was formed.

He invited young people present to join the Young Socialists, and two decided to do so on the spot. One new member said she "had been an individual socialist for a while, but realized I had to be in an organization with others." The Young Socialists in London will be supporting an October tour of a leader of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, and are planning a class series on the *Communist Manifesto*.

Organizing in Canada

The Young Socialists are also getting organized in Canada. A group has already come together in Montreal. Some of their main campaigns are building meetings for young people who were recently part of a youth brigade to Cuba and getting to picket lines of Caterpillar strikers in the United States. Members in Montreal are working with others in Toronto, Ottawa, and London, Ontario, to help them get other YS groups going as well.

Naomi Craine is a member of the Young Socialists steering committee and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in New York.

Young Socialists campaign in defense of Cuban revolution

The Young Socialists are putting defense of the Cuban revolution at the center of their activities. Across the United States and internationally, YS members are joining protests calling for Washington to get out of Guantánamo and end its embargo of the country, and organizing to get out the truth about Cuba through the pages of the *Militant* and in public forums.

The group issued a statement August 23 condemning Washington's latest aggressions toward the Cuban government, including stationing warships 12 miles from Cuba's coastline and interning those leaving Cuba at Guantánamo, as provocations that "have brought the U.S. government closer to waging a military assault on Cuba."

"The real reason why Washington is on this military campaign is that it fears the Cuban revolution and the example it sets for working people in the U.S. and around the world," the statement said. "Cuba is the only workers and farmers government in the world today...Workers, farmers, and youth

worldwide must rally to Cuba's defense at all costs and demand an unconditional end to the U.S. war drive."

In Salt Lake City, the Young Socialists participated in a protest against the increased provocations by the U.S. government. The demonstration received wide media coverage and Tami Peterson, a member of the Utah Young Socialists, was interviewed by Channel 13 television, the local Fox affiliate. Eight young people attended in all.

Chanting "Cuba si, Yankee no, U.S. out of Guantánamo" and carrying signs demanding "U.S. hands off Cuba," the Young Socialists participated in a very spirited protest in front of the Federal Building in New York August 24. Naomi Craine, a member of the Young Socialists and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke at the demonstration supporting the workers and youth in Cuba who continue to fight for a socialist perspective and condemning the accelerated threat of war by Washington against the people of Cuba.

SUPPORT THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS FUND DRIVE!

Young socialists are working to build an organization that can be part of the international working-class movement to put an end to the horrors of capitalism and begin to build a new world.

You can help by contributing to the \$12,000 YS Fund Drive. Just fill out the coupon below and send it with your contribution to the Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009. For more information call: (212) 475-6482.

\$6,808 Collected

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____

I pledge \$_____

I would like to join the Young Socialists

Please send me more information

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Washington lies on Cuban immigration

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

A major theme in Washington's propaganda war against Cuba is the claim that the revolutionary government prevents its citizens from leaving the island. Millions of Cubans, we are told, oppose the revolution and want to leave but are forced to resort to flimsy rafts. The current emigration wave, the big-business press repeats over and over again, is a ploy created by Cuban president Fidel Castro.

"The Castro regime has encouraged Cubans to take to the sea in unsafe vessels to escape their nation's internal problems," declared U.S. president Bill Clinton at an August 19 news conference. "In so doing, it has risked the lives of thousands of Cubans, and several have already died in their efforts to leave. This action is a cold-blooded attempt to maintain the Castro grip on Cuba, and to divert attention from his failed communist policies."

These are lies. They are being used as cover for the Clinton administration's aggressive moves against the Cuban revolution.

Washington violated 1984 pact

The policy of the Cuban government for the past 35 years has been to allow those who want to leave Cuba to do so.

It's Washington that has systematically restricted the number of immigrant visas it grants Cubans, while promoting illegal emigration from the island in an attempt to smear Cuba.

What are the facts?

In an August 24 televised news conference, which was broadcast live by CNN, the Cuban president pointed out that it is the U.S. government that has been violating the 1984 immigration agreement between the two governments. According to that pact, Washington agreed to grant residence visas to up to 20,000 Cubans a year. U.S. immigration laws that went into effect in 1990 actually raised that figure to almost 28,000.

Last year, however, U.S. authorities granted barely 2,700 visas to Cubans. "The fewer visas they granted to travel legally, the more they encouraged illegal departures from the island," Castro noted. In 1993, more than 3,600 Cubans came to the United States by boat or raft.

Since 1984, in fact, Washington has only granted 7 percent of the visas it had agreed to.

In contrast, Havana has removed obstacles to those seeking to leave the country. Last year 146,000 Cuban citizens sought to either move or visit abroad, most to the United States. The Cuban government authorized 99.9 percent of these requests, but three out of four people were prevented from traveling because the U.S. or other capitalist governments did not give them visas.

Even Clinton admitted at his August 19 press conference that Cuba has an open door policy. "We have no evidence that the Castro regime has done anything to discourage Cubans from coming to the in-country processing, applying for the visas if they're eligible to come here, and getting them," he stated.

Creates tensions, provocations

The U.S. Interests Section in Havana makes it as difficult as possible for Cubans requesting visas to visit relatives in the United States or to emigrate. They are notified by U.S. authorities to come in for an interview but are not given a set day and time and are forced to stand in long lines day after day — sometimes for months — waiting for their appointment, only to be turned down in most cases.

This policy is designed to create tensions. Last February, for example, after rumors started by U.S.-based rightist groups that Cuban security guards had been removed from around the U.S. Interests Section, an anxious crowd of people gathered there. Cuban authorities were able to defuse an attempted disturbance by a group of people that tried to force their way into the U.S. compound.

As the Cuban government has repeatedly pointed out, Washington, while denying people visas, has encouraged Cubans

to leave by other means — by raft or boat, or by hijacking planes — hailing them as heroes in the big-business media. It cynically attempts to portray Havana as a repressive government that violates the right to freely leave the country.

In one highly publicized case last September, the U.S. Justice Department flouted international hijacking laws by re-

stricting orders not to shoot at people leaving by boat.

At a news conference a few hours later, the Cuban president stated, "Either swift and effective measures are taken [by

the U.S. coast guard] to prevent the illegal departures, or we will remove the obstacles to any vessel that wants to leave for the United States."

Then in 1980, after years of restricting legal immigration, Washington encouraged a series of provocations against Cuba. These began when a group of Cubans seeking to prove they were political refugees crashed through the gates of the Peruvian embassy in a bus, killing Cuban soldier Pedro Ortiz. After the Peruvian regime, with Washington's blessing, refused to hand over the criminals to Cuban authorities, thus giving a green light to further incidents, the Cuban guards around the embassy were withdrawn. As a result, several thousand Cubans crowded the embassy grounds, seeking to leave the island.

The Carter administration whipped up a propaganda campaign against Cuba, hailing the "freedom-loving" Cubans in the Peruvian embassy. But the Cuban government turned the tables on Washington, opening the port of Mariel to a boatlift, by which some 125,000 people left for the United States.

The U.S. government suddenly changed its tune about "opening its arms" to the Cubans. It locked up thousands of Mariel emigrants and resorted to the Big Lie technique by asserting — without proof — that Havana was emptying its jails and mental institutions. This lie is still commonly repeated in the big-business press.

In 1984 Havana negotiated an immigration treaty with the Reagan administration, which agreed to accept 20,000 Cuban immigrants a year. Cuba agreed to accept the return of 2,700 Cubans who had left during the Mariel exodus and whom the U.S. government declared ineligible to enter the country.

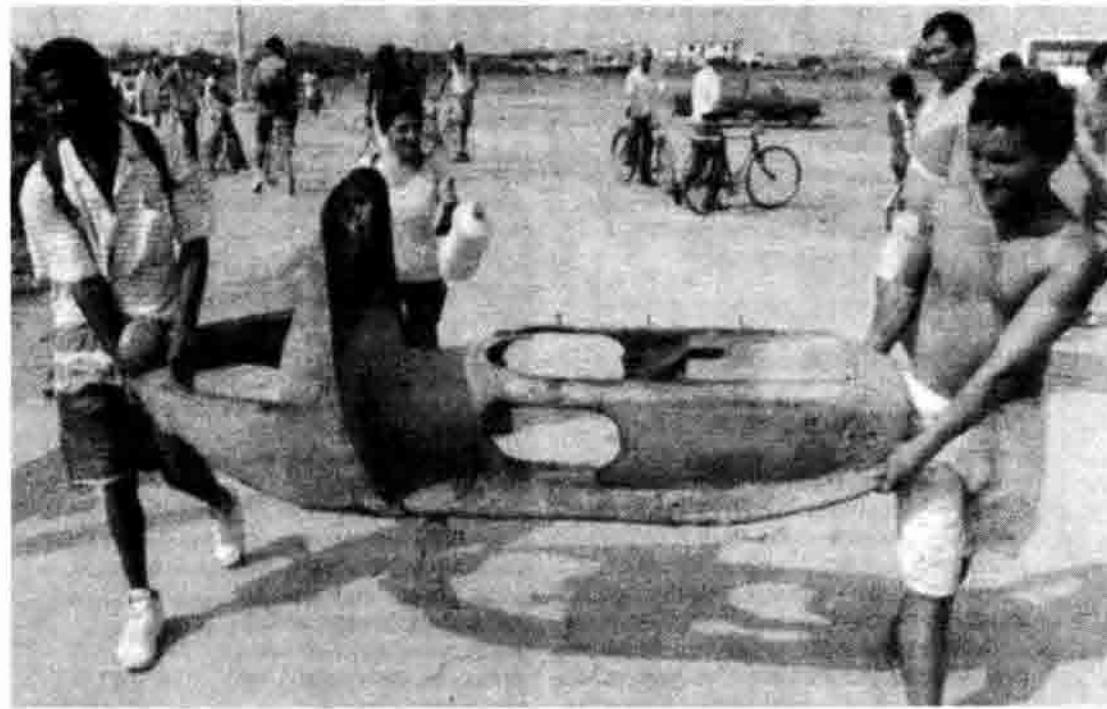
Within months, however, Washington launched a new provocation against Cuba with the creation of the misnamed Radio Martí. Havana then suspended the immigration agreements until 1988.

Since then, as Castro pointed out in his televised August 24 speech, U.S. authorities have failed to meet the 1984 accords.

The Cuban government, on the other hand, has continued to take steps to expand freedom of travel. Previously, Havana limited travel abroad by Cuban citizens for temporary visits, arguing that such back-and-forth traffic "was somewhat dangerous, because we knew that conspiracies and all kinds of sabotage were being organized" by Washington, as Castro stated in an August 5 news conference.

In recent years, however, the Cuban government has progressively moved toward free travel. First, free travel was authorized for Cubans over 60 years old. Then the age limit was lowered to those over 20 years old. Further steps encouraging family visits between Cuban-Americans and their relatives on the island were announced at a conference of Cuban émigrés last April.

On August 23, Havana announced that
Continued on page 12



A motorcycle frame on its way to being transformed into a raft. The policy of the Cuban government for the past 35 years has been to allow those who want to leave to do so.

fusing to prosecute a Cuban pilot, Carlos Caneo, who, after tying up the copilot, had hijacked a plane to Miami from its original Havana-Varadero route. In spite of a mutual anti-hijacking agreement between the two countries, Washington has never returned a single hijacker to stand trial in Cuba.

Clinton lies about tugboat hijacking

In July and August, as the flow of rafters from Cuba began to grow, a series of armed boat hijackings occurred. It began July 13 with a tugboat that was commandeered in Havana. Pursued by tugboat workers who tried to recover their vessel, the stolen craft sank when it collided with another tug. The workers were able to rescue 31 of the 63 people on board the unseaworthy boat.

Despite these facts, reported in detail by Cuba, Washington and the capitalist media brazenly lied about the incident, accusing the Cuban government of deliberately sinking the tugboat. "Authorities rammed it [the boat], drowning 32 people," the *Washington Post* claimed in an editorial. "Most of the people died inside the tugboat," the *Miami Herald* reported, "when the fireboat crews aimed their hoses at the hold and filled it with water."

"I deplore it as...another example of the brutal nature of the Cuban regime," declared Clinton in a July 18 speech.

Similarly, when another boat was stolen August 8, the hijackers fatally shot navy officer Roberto Aguilar Reyes. Yet the U.S. State Department insisted there was no proof of any murder; U.S. news reports even claimed the officer in question was not only alive but was the one who had hijacked the boat.

A few days before, on August 5, following yet another hijacking where a police officer was killed, an antigovernment riot broke out near the waterfront in downtown Havana. Thousands of workers and youth, responding immediately to the attacks on hotels and stores, beat back the rioters.

Castro, who joined the workers on the street, explained, "We are not the ones opposed to the departure of those who want to leave. The United States is opposed. They deny visas to these people, yet they welcome them with open arms every time they commit a crime...."

'We were guarding U.S. coasts'

"All of this encourages, of course, the lumpen, who think they have impunity," said Castro. "They know we are not going to use violence [because we want] to prevent the deaths of women and children. We take special measures. We are truly guard-

Washington] to prevent the illegal departures, or we will remove the obstacles to any vessel that wants to leave for the United States."

At the same time, the Cuban government reiterated its willingness to discuss these matters with the U.S. government.

Washington, however, has responded by launching provocative moves against Cuba, the most serious of which is the detention of Cubans leaving the island on the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

There is a long history to Washington's manipulation of the refugee issue and its efforts to depict Cuba as an island gulag with a ban on emigration similar to the policy followed by the Stalinist regime that ruled the former Soviet Union.

Open door policy

Castro has explained Cuba's true position many times over the years. In October 1965 he told U.S. journalist Lee Lockwood, "The Cuban government has always had the same policy since the beginning of the Revolution, of allowing those who want to leave the country to do so freely. Under that policy, tens of thousands of Cubans left Cuba every year, from 1959 until 1962. Right after the Missile Crisis of October 1962, the United States government canceled daily flights between the United States and Cuba and refused to re-open them, although we protested."

Describing Washington's policy, Castro said, "In the beginning, after the Revolution, America did everything possible to encourage the highest number of people to leave Cuba, both as a propagandistic move against the Revolution and to drain the country of its technicians and qualified personnel....

"After the October Crisis, they decided it was a better policy to prevent people from leaving, based on the hope of an internal uprising taking place in Cuba." At the same time, Washington imposed an economic embargo to strangle Cuba, create hardships, and attempt to foment unrest.

Faced with Washington's efforts to encourage hijackings and illegal emigration, the Cuban government opened up the port of Camarioca in 1965 and publicly announced that Cubans in the United States could come there by boat and pick up anybody who wanted to leave. Washington was forced to allow the resumption of a few regular flights from Cuba to Miami, until 1973, when it again halted them.

In 1966 the U.S. government institutionalized its immigration policy toward Cuba with the passage of the Cuban Adjustment Act, by which Cubans emigrating to the United States are automatically granted the

Cuban leader speaks in Sydney, Australia

BY MARNIE KENNEDY

SYDNEY, Australia — Marcelino Fajardo, Cuba's consul-general in Australia, was the featured speaker at a Militant Labor Forum here August 27. The meeting, which was attended by 29 people, was called to protest Washington's stepped-up aggression against Cuba.

Fajardo said the U.S. government has the aim of "provoking conflict among the Cuban people. If they try and blockade the island with warships, then more Cubans would leave fearful of what would happen, but millions will be prepared to fight."

Opponents of the U.S. attacks against Cuba are planning an emergency picket line outside the U.S. consulate in Sydney for September 2.

Hundreds blast aggression against Cuban revolution

BY SARA LOBMAN

Chants of "Hell no, we won't go. U.S. out of Guantánamo," rang out at the Federal Building in Seattle August 29. The protest of 85 people was one of more than a dozen emergency picket lines, rallies, meetings, and press conferences called on short notice in cities across the United States in opposition to U.S. provocations against Cuba.

"The United States broke relations with Cuba in 1961, but they still maintain a military base on the island," Marisela Fleites, a Cuban-American who is a professor at the University of Puget Sound, told the protesters. Rev. John Boonstra, executive director of the Washington Association of Churches, said, "Despite constant U.S. threats of invasion, the Cubans have continued to resist. They have not just suffered, but have struggled."

The Seattle meeting was organized by the Seattle Cuba Friendship. Other demands included, "Stop the U.S. war drive against Cuba," "No U.S. naval blockade," and "End the travel ban and economic sanctions." Sarah Goodacre, a young woman from British Columbia, Canada, who had just returned from a three-week brigade to Cuba, and Harvey McArthur, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, also spoke.

Some 100 people turned out for an August 26 picket line in Boston called by the July 26 Coalition. An earlier press conference, held to publicize the event, was covered on several Boston television stations.

Some people passing by opposed the demonstration. Many others, however, were supportive. "It's about time someone came out to protest the barbarian U.S. policy toward both Haitians and Cubans," said one woman from Haiti. A cab driver pulled his car over and asked for some of the Spanish-language flyers to distribute in the nearby city of Dorchester.

'ANC has high regard for Cuba'

Godfrey Sithole, a member of the African National Congress, was one of the speakers at an August 26 protest in Philadelphia. The picket line, which was called on 24 hours notice by the Philadelphia Cuba Support Coalition, drew nearly 50 people.

"We from South Africa remember the role of the Cuban people in our struggle against the apartheid government....They sacrificed much for liberty and justice in our area," Sithole said.

"[Cuban president Fidel] Castro has the support of the majority of people in Cuba," he continued. "Stop the blockade and let the people of Cuba decide for themselves."

The Cuban American Committee for Peace held a widely publicized press conference August 25 at the steps of the Federal Building in Newark, New Jersey. Raymundo Del Toro, president of the group, said the Clinton administration seeks to fo-

ment civil war and a bloodbath in Cuba. He called for lifting the embargo.

Fifty people participated in an action in downtown San Francisco during the afternoon rush hour August 26. Pickets carried bilingual placards and chanted slogans in English and Spanish. As cars passed by, some drivers honked their horns in approval. Every major television network affiliate in the Bay Area, including the Spanish-language network Univision, carried coverage of the action.

That same day, 50 people turned out for a picket line in Minneapolis, while three dozen protested in front of the Federal Building in Des Moines, Iowa.

Support for striking rail workers

Speakers at the Twin Cities event included representatives from Women Against Military Madness, Freedom Road, and the Young Socialists. Following the protest, almost a third of the participants walked to the nearby corporate headquarters of Canadian Pacific Railroad to talk with striking rail workers there. The walkout has since ended. A second protest of 35 people was held in Minneapolis three days later.

Thirty-five people attended a Militant Labor Forum in Salt Lake City August 27 to protest Washington's attacks on the Cuban revolution. Two dozen had joined a downtown picket line earlier in the day, which was covered by four major television stations. Following the forum, participants decided to organize a new coalition to call further actions to protest U.S. threats and provocations against Cuba. The new group has called a press conference and rally for September 6.

Protests were also held in Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut. Students from the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University joined the Hartford demonstration. Afterwards, they

took a stack of leaflets back to their campuses, saying they planned to organize meetings to get out the truth about the Cuban revolution.

Some 50 people turned out for a picket line at the Federal Building in Pittsburgh August 29. The U.S. "Hands Off Cuba" Coalition in Washington, D.C., held a second protest in front of the White House August 30. That same day, two television stations covered a picket line of 20 people in Greensboro, North Carolina, called by the Triad Cuba Committee. Some 30 people attended a panel discussion at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia in opposition to U.S. war moves against Cuba.

In addition, several dozen opponents of Clinton's measures demonstrated in downtown Detroit August 31.

Similar actions are planned in New York September 2 and 8, Miami September 2, Houston September 8, and in several other cities.

The following people contributed to this article: Osborne Hart, a member of the Teamsters union in San Francisco; Tim Craine in Hartford, Connecticut, and Carl Weinberg in New Haven, Connecticut; Joanne Kuniansky, member of the United Transportation Union in Newark, New Jersey; Angel Lariscy, a member of United Auto Workers (UAW) in Des Moines,



Militant/George Rose
In Toronto, 75 people protested August 27 in front of the U.S. consulate against U.S. aggression towards Cuba.

Iowa; Danny Booher, a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 311 in Lawrence, Massachusetts; Michael Pennock in Minneapolis; Wendy Lyons, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Philadelphia; Tami Peterson and Sarah Jolley, members of the Young Socialists in Salt Lake City, Utah; Gary Boyers in Detroit; Steve Craine, a member of the UAW in Pittsburgh; Mark Butterfield in Greensboro, North Carolina; Lisa Ahlberg in Seattle; and Kathy Retting in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Little opposition to Clinton measures among Latin American, other gov'ts

BY LUIS MADRID

Washington's escalation of its war drive against Cuba has encountered little official opposition outside the United States.

Pedro Borio, a spokesperson for the Brazilian embassy in Washington, D.C., stated that his government had not addressed the issue at all. But an article in the August 18 *Jornal do Brasil*, published in Rio de Janeiro, reported that Brazil's foreign ministry was "laying the groundwork for maintaining good relations with possible leaders" of a post-revolutionary government. According to the newspaper, Vera Machado, the Brazilian consul in Mi-

ami, has contacted members of right-wing Cuban-American groups there.

In Chile, the daily *La Epoca* wrote that it was time for the government there to renew diplomatic relations with Havana. The newspaper argued that international trade relations should be reestablished with Cuba to stop what it called "real harassment and siege, not against a hierarchy going through a boring decay but against all Cubans."

The Mexican government issued a statement August 25 offering to "aid...in a dialogue which would lead to the easing of tensions and to the reestablishment of normalcy in the relationship between Cuba and the United States."

The Mexican and Venezuelan governments have agreed to accept Cubans whose relatives are already in those countries. The governments of Panama and Honduras agreed August 30 to provide space for a total of 15,000 Cuban emigrants for a period of up to six months.

Cuba is not a member of the Organization of American States, stated Francisco Bernasconi, an OAS press officer in Washington, D.C., referring to Cuba's 1962 expulsion from that international body at Washington's behest. Therefore, he added, the organization is not obligated to address the issue.

Swedish gov't calls Castro 'root of evil'

The Swedish government took a more openly hostile approach toward Cuba. "Just as the root of evil in South Africa was apartheid, so the root of evil in Cuba is communist dictatorship," said Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas August 22. Alleging concern for the plight of Cubans as a result of Washington's measures, she added that it was Cuban president Fidel Castro, not the U.S. government, who was to blame. Unless he resigns, she con-

cluded, the outcome "may well be bloody." "It is clearly an unfortunate problem between the U.S. and Cuba," said Ross Snyder, spokesperson for the Department of External Affairs in Canada. He stated that his government was concerned about the embargo only "insofar as it affects Canada."

"However unpleasant the Castro regime may be, isolating Cuba is not the way to bring it down," an editorial in the August 26 *Toronto Globe and Mail* said. "The best way to get rid of Fidel Castro is to kill him with kindness."

Svend Robinson, a leader of the New Democratic Party who was in Cuba the week of the announcements by the Clinton administration, called on the Canadian government to lodge an official complaint against the U.S. embargo with the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

The U.S. government "is seeking to destroy Cuba completely and return it to the control of international capital as a satellite state, as it was when the dictator [Fulgencio] Batista was in power," said Tony Benn, a prominent figure in the left wing of the British Labour Party. "Every progressive in the world should oppose this with all the power at their command."

John Gardner, a spokesperson for the British Foreign Office, commented that Cubans leaving the island "would be welcome, providing they have the proper papers. If people apply for political asylum, each case would be decided on its merits."

In an August 22 editorial, the *Financial Times* stated, "The tightening of the U.S. economic embargo...is a step in precisely the wrong direction." The London daily complained that even if it led, as Washington hopes, to the overthrow of the Cuban government, "there are no guarantees" that it would bring into being a government to their liking.

HELP 'MILITANT' PROVIDE FIRSTHAND COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN CUBA

Perspectiva Mundial editor Martin Koppel and *Militant* correspondent Laura Garza, a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Miami, will be traveling to Cuba within days to provide firsthand coverage of recent events from the factories, farms, and schools of the Caribbean country.

Militant reporters will also travel to major cities in Latin America to report the reaction of working people, trade union leaders, government officials, and others to Washington's aggression against Cuba.

In addition, the *Militant* has requested permission from the U.S. Army's Atlantic Command to send correspondents to the Guantánamo Naval Base in Cuba.

Funds are urgently needed to cover the costs of these trips. We urge all readers to send generous contributions right away. Please send your check or money order earmarked "Cuba trips" to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



MILITANT/JON HILLSON
May Day demonstration in Havana, Cuba, 1990.

Guantánamo Naval Base: a powder keg

Continued from front page

August, a small rebellion broke out at one Haitian camp. In four hours of scuffling, 45 Haitians and 20 U.S. soldiers were injured. Another minor protest by Haitians erupted over a rumor that orange juice, suddenly unavailable, had been diverted to the Cubans.

Recently, about 120 Haitians tried unsuccessfully to escape the camp by swimming across Guantánamo Bay, hoping to reach Cuban territory. Over the years, some Cubans have entered the base by sea or overland, crossing U.S. and Cuban minefields.

U.S. officials said 28 Cubans entered the Guantánamo base August 31. Three were reportedly injured by a land mine. The officials say about 50 Cubans a day have rafted into the base in the last week.

The Clinton administration is "creating a highly dangerous focal point inside this territory, not only for reasons of health and food and the illegal use of the base, but also militarily, because it is an enclave that exists against the will of the Cuban people," Jorge Bolaños, Cuba's deputy foreign minister, told Cuban press agency Prensa Latina.

U.S. threats to invade Haiti

Escalating the volatile situation, Washington is pressing ahead with its threats to invade Haiti. At a meeting of officials from 13 Caribbean countries held in Kingston, Jamaica, the governments of Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Belize agreed to contribute a token force of 266 troops to a U.S. invasion force of 10,000. They are to begin training immediately at the U.S. naval base at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Meanwhile, the U.S. administration has proceeded to implement the anti-Cuba sanctions Clinton announced August 20. These include a restriction in the number of charter flights to Cuba and a ban on cash remittances from Cuban-Americans to their relatives.

Under the new U.S. Treasury regulations Cuban-Americans, who could previously visit family members in Cuba, are barred except for emergencies like terminal illness. An estimated 50,000 people visited Cuba from the United States last year, mostly Cuban-Americans.

Professional researchers now need pre-approved U.S. government licenses to go to Cuba. Travel by direct charter flights from the United States to Cuba is no longer allowed for those whose visit is financed by the Cuban government or organizations there. Journalists "regularly employed in that capacity" and government employees on official business can still travel to the island, although journalists departing from Miami August 31 were harassed by U.S. officials and temporarily barred from boarding their flight.

Sending cash to Cuba is now illegal except in cases such as a severe medical emergency. Cuban-Americans could previously send \$300 every three months to their relatives.

Days after announcing these measures against Cuba, Washington scheduled talks with Havana on a limited range of immigration matters. The Cuban delegation in the talks is led by Ricardo Alarcón, president of that country's National Assembly and former foreign minister. The U.S. delegation is headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Skol.

On August 30 an ultrarightist Cuban-American group calling itself the November 30 Committee staged an attack on Cuba's mission to the United Nations. Fifteen thugs tried to chain shut the building's doors and physically assaulted Cuban diplomatic personnel.

The attack occurred at a site where police maintain a 24-hour guard and command all approaches to the building. Four members of the Cuban mission--subsequently released because of their diplomatic immunity--were arrested for defending themselves, along with three of the rightist thugs.

Rafael Dausá, spokesperson for the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., condemned the attack as a "grotesque action by a group of terrorist provocateurs." He criticized the cops "for



U.S. Marines search Cubans shipped for detention at Guantánamo

handcuffing diplomatic officials from our Mission, an abuse that violated diplomatic immunity."

The same day, Tony Bryant, head of the rightist paramilitary group Comandos L, held a press conference in Miami calling for "military strikes to liberate [Cuba] from a tyrant." The Bay of Pigs Brigade, another Miami-based terrorist paramilitary group, has announced a stepped-up recruitment drive.

Cuba: 'Address core of the problem'

From the beginning of the crisis, the Cuban government has expressed its willingness to discuss a range of political issues with Washington. At an August 24 news conference, Cuban president Fidel Castro reiterated that the U.S. government was responsible for the wave of Cuban rafters because of its policy of sharply limiting immigrant visas to Cubans while encouraging illegal emigration from the island.

"Our stand is well-known," Castro said. "Simple migration talks do not solve the problem. We must address the core of the problems." This, he stated, is the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, which by creating hardships "is the main cause of emigration." At the same time he said Cuba would favor talks on the immigration issue.

Such talks have been held about twice a year since 1984.

On August 28, the Cuban government issued a decree stating that, for safety reasons, Cubans would not be allowed to take children aboard their rickety rafts bound for the United States.

U.S. officials have indicated they will ask Havana to block Cubans from leaving by boat, in exchange for Washington promising to grant residency visas to more than 20,000 Cubans a year.

This would amount to fulfilling the terms of the 1984 immigration agreement between the two countries, which the U.S. government has not met in the last decade. Washington granted visas to only 2,700 Cubans last year, and 19,700 Cubans are on a waiting list for visas. Some of these have been waiting for 10 years.

U.S. officials ruled out discussing the embargo against Cuba, however.

Speaking August 28 on CBS's "Face the Nation" program, U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher explained the administration's view of negotiations with the Cuban government. "If [Castro] does move toward democratic change in Cuba," Christopher said, "the United States will respond in a carefully calibrated way. That's very consistent with the Cuban Democracy Act," he underlined, referring to a 1992 law that tightens the U.S. embargo on Cuba. He specified demands such as "free elections in Cuba," peddling one of the common lies about Cuba's government structure, which includes popular, democratic elections."

A middle position?

Christopher portrayed the administration's position as "a steady course down the middle" between two "extreme viewpoints," both of which are being discussed as reasonable alternatives by various political figures and commentators. Christopher referred to politicians like Florida's Re-

publican senator Connie Mack who call for a naval blockade against the island and to "people who want to capitulate" to Cuba, in reference to those politicians who advocate loosening the embargo.

The Wall Street Journal, in an August 26 editorial, reversed its previous position and called for "lifting the embargo not as a concession to Castro but as a way to speed his departure."

In a column in the August 30 *Wall Street Journal*, former Reagan administration official Elliott Abrams argued against lifting the embargo but for holding negotiations with the Cuban government. "Diplomacy should follow the policy of ending the Castro regime," he said, basing himself on the premise, shared by most bourgeois politicians and commentators, that the revolutionary Cuban government is about to crumble as the Stalinist regimes did in the former Soviet bloc.

Abrams noted that the Reagan administration held a range of talks with Cuba during the 1980s, at a time when Washington also launched military threats against Cuba and waged a mercenary war against the Nicaraguan revolution. "We should continue the kinds of talks we have usefully held over the decades" with Cuba, he added. But "the goal is to undermine this regime."

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Miami workers debate U.S. Cuba policy

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

MIAMI — Many working people here are debating the recent moves by the Clinton administration to detain at the Guantánamo Naval Base Cubans picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard in the Florida Straits.

"Although clearly not happy about the incarceration of Cubans in Guantánamo and Krome [detention center in Miami], many Cuban-Americans at work are expressing some amount of support for the new U.S. government policy," reported Ernie Mailhot, a food service worker at the United Airlines kitchen in Miami and member of International Association of Machinists Local 368. "Others seem to just quietly go along for now while right wingers express more extreme views." Mailhot is the Socialist Workers Party can-

diate for U.S. Senate in Florida.

"Just get Fidel out," one coworker told Mailhot. "If Clinton's policy had been put into effect years ago," Victor, another coworker who is Cuban-American said, "I would be in Cuba fighting against Castro instead of here."

"Many workers, including immigrants from the Caribbean and Central America, are being swept up in the U.S. government campaign against Cuban immigrants," reported Janet Post, who also works at the United Airlines kitchen.

"The pie isn't big enough for everybody" some say. One young Cuban-American worker was even more to the point, "I pay taxes and I sure don't want them going for more immigrants. Besides, these are Cubans who voted for Fidel and

they are just coming here because their economy is in trouble now," he told Post.

"We don't want these Cubans here. These people will be on welfare. There are no jobs for them," said a Latin American coworker to Mailhot. A South American worker told Post that "the problem with people sending money [to their families in Cuba] is that the Cuban government ends up getting more money than the family for whom the money is meant to go to."

Dangerous trip

But not everyone shares this view. One Haitian-American in the United Flight Kitchen, who himself made the dangerous trip by boat from Haiti to Miami eight years ago, was angry about the mistreatment of Haitian refugees relative to the

Cubans. He wasn't sure whether the Cubans should be allowed into the United States. However, he expressed a certain solidarity with the plight of the rafters.

"The refugees should be allowed in," said Marcelo, a United Kitchen worker from Buenos Aires. They "are leaving Cuba because they want the same things that their families have in Miami: cable television, air conditioners, and jeans."

"I have heard Americans say that the rafts should be sunk," said Humberto, an older Cuban-American worker. "People have forgotten their history, this is a country of immigrants."

A Colombian coworker told Mailhot he opposed the U.S. campaign against Cuba. People like Cuban American National Foundation president Jorgé Mas Canosa "have no concern for Cubans here or in Cuba," he said emphatically.

Discussion among garment workers

"It's better to be home and hungry than trapped in Guantánamo," Isabel, a woman from Cuba told Rollande Girard. Both are garment workers and members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU)

Haydée, who is also Cuban-American, was looking at the list in the *Nuevo Herald* of Cubans held at Krome Detention Center and overheard the conversation. "No, it's better to be in Guantánamo and be free," she argued. "Being in a concentration camp isn't exactly free," Girard said.

Another Cuban-American, also a member of ACTWU, who has been following the Cuban revolution in *Perspectiva Mundial* noted, "There is still a lot of support for Fidel."

Members of the United Steelworkers of America at Keller Industries are also discussing U.S. policy towards Cuba and Cuban immigrants.

"The Cubans will be treated better than the Haitian refugees because the Haitians are Black," one worker who is Black said.

"I'm against anybody being incarcerated at Guantánamo or Krome," Laura Garza, a worker in the plant and a member of the Socialist Workers Party, responded. "The main reason the U.S. authorities treat the Cubans differently is because they want to attack the Cuban revolution. The U.S. rulers also want workers to do is to fight each other like dogs. And if we allow people to be treated like dogs, we all lose."

'A revolution of the workers'

Continued from page 6

of being independent 90 miles from the United States. In the face of all this, today's Moncadistas rise up, prepared for sacrifice born of resistance, determined not to pay the humiliating price of defeat.

Active resistance

We are speaking of active resistance, not of anxiously waiting and hoping for fortuitous events or the efforts of others. Idle waiting is the breeding ground for pessimism and for the crumbling of character.

We must do whatever is necessary to save the revolution, and for this the most important thing is to recover our economy.

Cleaning up domestic finances is an indispensable requirement without which nothing can be done. Workers must be conscious that reversing the problem of excess money in circulation requires more than mild therapy. These measures demand sacrifice because half-measures would not be effective.

The fundamental task is to increase agricultural production and food for the population. This effort must be confronted today with a true spirit of innovation, more in line with the present economic situation and the drastic change in the availability of resources and equipment.

The workers movement thus salutes and supports the regional meetings the party is currently organizing in order to confront with greater efficiency and cohesion the challenge of the special period and the stepped-up imperialist blockade.

As Raúl [Castro] said in the recent party meeting of the five central provinces and their 53 municipalities, all revolutionaries

and patriots must close ranks in the battle against subjective deficiencies, and in the creative search for alternatives to the objective problems.

We know that revolutionaries and patriots constitute the immense majority of this people, the true inheritors of our ancestors who attacked the Moncada on July 26, 1953.

Among us too are people who have become cowards, discouraged, and give up. There are the pessimists, the faint-hearted, and the indifferent. There are those who have become tired.

Fight to conquer the future

Forty-one years ago, when a small part of the youth threw themselves into the fight to conquer the future, ready to give their lives in the effort, there were a great many more pessimists and indifferent people. The conscience of the nation seemed listless under the terrible weight of neocolonial domination, and the working class was barely able to organize itself amid brutal repression.

However, Moncada gave rise to the *Granma*, and the *Granma* gave rise to the guerrilla struggle in the mountains and the underground struggle in the cities, and between those poles of struggle there emerged one day the dawn of January 1, 1959. What then can we not do today with a giant of a people and with the same Fidel with his image shining in the mountains?

Times are harsh, but in the darkest of night, our bonfires continue spreading their light. The fire of Moncada has not, and will not be, extinguished. The revolution of the workers will continue triumphant.

Auto workers win victory in Indiana

BY JOHN SARGE

ANDERSON, Indiana — Some 3,300 United Auto Workers (UAW) members returned to work at the Inland-Fisher Guide plant here late on August 25 after ratifying an agreement with General Motors settling outstanding grievances. GM, which had threatened massive layoffs at the taillights factory, also agreed to maintain current employment levels at the facility for the next two years.

The members of UAW Local 663 had walked out two and a half days earlier on the morning of August 23.

The sentiment of most workers entering the sprawling complex was that they had won a victory against the auto giant "We struck over piled-up grievances, but what we really wanted was to protect our jobs, and we did," one union member said.

Since the early 1990s, as part of its drive to become more profitable, GM has been laying off workers, closing plants, and selling divisions the company deems inefficient. Workers in parts plants owned by the auto giant have been a special target. GM is on a drive to slash the percentage of parts it builds and outsource them to locations where workers are paid much less. Ford Motor Company and the Chrysler Corp., GM's main competitors in the United States, rely on outside suppliers for a higher proportion of their vehicles' parts, lowering their costs per vehicle.

Workers at the Anderson facility, which produces lighting components and bumper parts, were looking at layoffs of between 600 and 1,000, if GM carried out its plans.

Despite the limited duration of the walkout, the strike by Local 663 is expected to be GM's most costly work stoppage since 1992, when workers struck for nine days at



Members of United Auto Workers Local 663 walk out at GM's Inland-Fisher Guide plant in Anderson, Indiana, August 23. The two-day strike closed 15 assembly plants.

GM's Lordstown, Ohio, stamping factory, idling nine assembly plants.

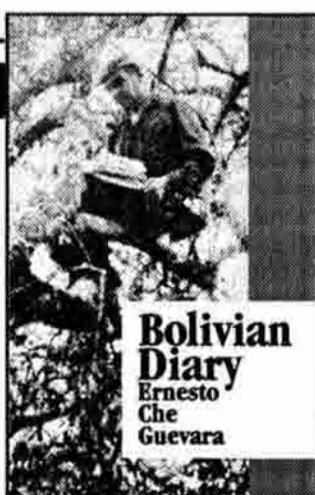
The Inland-Fisher Guide strike closed 15 assembly plants, with 49,050 workers, stretching from Quebec to Kentucky. *Ward's Automotive Reports*, an industry journal, estimates GM's production loss from the strike at 20,000 vehicles.

Some financial analysts estimate that GM's third-quarter profits will be reduced by \$30 to \$40 million. This comes at a time when the Big Three U.S. automakers are losing market share to their Japanese competitors because they cannot produce vehicles fast enough to meet the demand in North America. The *New York Times* called the walkout a "show of power by the UAW."

The strikers, representing less than 1 percent

of GM's North American workforce, were able to hobble half the company's assembly plants because of the just-in-time inventory system that guarantees parts to the assembly plants only at the time they are needed. This strengthens workers' potential power in parts plants like the one in Anderson.

John Sarge is a member of UAW Local 900 in Wayne, Michigan.



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ISSUE NO. 10
Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War
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Clinton orders rail strikers on Soo Line to return to work

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Picket lines of resolute railroad unionists in 11 Midwest states, along with their shanties, tents and shelters, came down August 29, as 1,100 United Transportation Union (UTU) members on strike against the Canadian Pacific-owned Soo Line Railroad were told by top UTU officials to comply with President Bill Clinton's suspension of the strike within minutes of the chief executive's signature.

"We never seem to fare well when [the government] comes in," said Dave Gay, a picket captain at the Southtown yard here, where he's worked for years. "My gut feeling is that if the railroad is really playing hardball, they'll reject anything the PEB [Presidential Emergency Board] gives us. They don't negotiate, they dictate. They want to bust our union. Then we're back where we started. We'll have to go out, shut down the [U.S. railroads], and stay out and not go back until we get a fair contract. I don't think this thing is over," Gay said, "but I hope I'm wrong."

The return-to-work order was issued that afternoon from the president's vacation spot in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Clinton's action invoking the 68-year-old antiunion Railroad Labor Act was triggered by an August 26 announcement from UTU assistant president Corky Swert that strikers would be "free to engage in a secondary boycott" — potentially shutting down carriers using Canadian Pacific (CP) track.

Such picketing would have affected railroads owned by Burlington Northern Inc. and the Chicago and North Western Railway Co., including its Chicago commuter traffic. This would "deprive a section of the country of essential services," stated Clinton, who imposed a 60-day "cooling-off" period on the CP strikers.

Capitalist farmers hollered for government intervention to end the strike, fearful that their profits would be dented by harvested grain left sitting in elevators. A Presidential Emergency Board will report to Clinton its findings after 30 days, with a second 30-day period, if necessary, to finalize a proposal to the UTU and the CP. Either side can reject the offer, possibly reigniting the longest major railroad strike since 1978.

For the duration of the cooling-off period, returning unionists will work under the same rules, crew size, and wage structure which governed their labor before the strike.

Officials urge compliance

The officialdom of the UTU has routinely complied with presidential back-to-work orders as the traditional mode of ending strikes.

The secondary boycott Swert authorized never took place. In a statement accompanying his announcement, the UTU declared that the possibility of the job action "does not mean that we will definitely do so." The statement also claimed that the implied picketing would "not mean there will be any intervention from the White House." "There might be," the statement went on, a PEB, "but there might not."

This sequence of events paralleled a deadlock in negotiations, with two and a half days of talks collapsing on August 24, and a nine-hour session ending in similar fashion August 28.

In contract discussions attended by federal mediators, the bosses offered their long-standing, bare bones concessionary package. Givebacks sought by the CP's millionaire owners include the slashing of road and yard switching crews to conductor only, reducing the current workforce from 1,100 to 600; a wage offer covering the past six and a half years, amounting to an actual salary cut; and creating a third tier of rightless workers — the 175 employees hired in 1993 and 1994.

The CP is one of the world's largest transportation companies, with assets of more than \$12 billion and profits of nearly \$200 million for the first half of 1994.

When a turf dispute between the offi-

cials of the UTU and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers flared into the open in mid-August, the CP brass exploited the simmering factional rivalry, inducing BLE president Ronald McLaughlin to initiate a back-to-work movement. In a sharp rebuke, only a handful of engineers broke ranks — just one in the Twin Cities terminal, the system's largest with 120 BLE members, and none in Chicago, where a lone engineer has scabbed since the start of the strike.

Across 11 states, UTU picket lines were fortified by members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way (BMWE) track workers who threatened to strike the CP if its scare tactic of hiring outside scab contract labor was not withdrawn. The BMWE, along with members of the Transportation Communication Union were the backbone of the 3,000 CP workers in 16 craft unions who solidly honored UTU pickets.

In Mason City, Iowa, despite the pressure mounted by a local president and a resident BLE general chairman, along with anti-strike hoopla from Iowa governor Terry Branstad, only 5 of 14 engineers marked up for work.

An article on the suspension of the strike in the August 30 *Wall Street Journal* noted the existence of "some fears within the railroad industry that an emergency board appointed by a Democratic president will be sympathetic to unions. However, President



Militant/Jon Hillson

Rail unionists honored UTU picket lines during CP rail walkout. Despite pressure from union officials to break strike, engineers overwhelmingly stayed out.

Clinton has already shown he's no fan of strikes; he moved quickly to end last year's strike by flight attendants at AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, and he has called for an end to the Major League Baseball strike."

On August 29, the rail bosses also took out full-page ads in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Milwaukee Journal* and other midwestern newspapers blasting the UTU for not accepting its concession package, while grandstanding that the "UTU membership deserves the opportunity to vote on" its deal.

"I'm relieved because it's over," explained Tom Schwartz, who passed his probationary period during the strike. "But I'm not really relieved because it's not really over. How long does it take to harvest

that grain? Sixty days? Then what? They [CP] come back and reject PEB? Or do they get what they want from the government? The anxiety's still there."

"The CP," said Jeff Grab, a switchman with 17 years seniority, "tried to destroy a union, but that just didn't happen. I'm almost speechless at how people held together, like this real young fellow, who lived off of [\$63.75 a week] strike benefits, in his van, and donations from the [picket] line. We can't abandon comrades in the field." The CP began furloughing new hires August 30.

Jon Hillson, who was on strike against CP rail in St. Paul, is a member of UTU Local 1882 and the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Minnesota.

Firestone strikers march in Iowa

BY SHIRLEY PEÑA
AND JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Despite sweltering heat, more than 1,000 trade unionists and their families marched here August 27 to show their support for 1,300 members of United Rubber Workers (URW) Local 310 on strike against the Bridgestone/Firestone company.

Nationally, 4,200 members of the URW struck Firestone's five plants on July 12, challenging management's attempt to eliminate cost-of-living increases, tie raises to productivity, begin 12-hour shifts, end holiday pay, and make cuts in the wage scale.

Strikers expressed confidence in the union's ability to remain united in the face of the company's hiring of 200 replacement workers nationally, including 30 production and maintenance workers in Des Moines.

In addition to the "Local 310 URW on strike" placards, which were carried by hundreds of marchers, others held homemade picket signs. Some said, "Last, best and final offer — No way!" and "An injury to one is an injury to all."

As the march passed the plant, unionists hissed and booed at security guards from the notorious antilabor Vance Security company. These thugs, who were dressed in battle fatigues, stood on the roof of the plant videotaping the march.

"There's a lot more than BridgeStone/Firestone at stake," said one striker. "These attacks have a way of mushrooming. You know, it's scary when you put in 30 or 40 years and in a blink of an eye — it's gone."

Officials push anti-Japan sentiment

The fact that Firestone is owned by capitalist families in Japan has been a central theme of union officials' public statements, including at the march.

"This strike is not about this plant and Firestone making money," Perry Chapin, head of the South Central Labor Federation, said to open the rally. "When Japanese companies come over here and try to dictate the economy for America, then, by God, it's time we sent them back home."

Other speakers included two members of the United Transportation Union on strike against the Canadian Pacific Soo Line. One, following the tenor of some of the earlier speeches, noted that the Soo Line is owned by a Canadian company. "In my opinion," responded the other rail

striker, "the only color the employers care about is green and their only flag is the skull and crossbones — and they're all coming after us."

The day after the rally, Firestone placed large display ads in the Sunday *Des Moines Register* seeking to recruit strikebreakers.

Some rubber workers return to work

In related developments, more than 500 members of URW Local 164 met and decided to return to work under temporary working conditions set by their new owner, Titan Wheel International Inc.

The workers struck against the Pirelli/Armstrong company on July 15 as part of a national strike. Shortly after the walkout began, Pirelli announced the sale of its Des Moines plant to Titan.

Titan placed large ads in the *Des Moines Register* August 19 announcing that it would be taking applications for jobs over the weekend at the Best Western motel.

The ad promised jobs ranging from "\$9 to \$16 an hour." It neglected to mention that the rubber workers were on strike against the company.

Unionists around the city were outraged at the union-busting ad and each of the two days 25 to 30 area unionists came down to picket outside the motel. A number of those who came to apply decided to leave.

Titan has said they will initially recall about 400 workers. At the same time, the company and the union will begin negotiations on a long-term contract.

After the local meeting, the 500 rubber workers marched to the plant, holding their union cards in the air and chanting, "We want our jobs back."

Shirley Peña is a member of UAW Local 997 in Newton, Iowa, and Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor. John Studer is a member of UAW Local 270 in Clive, Iowa.

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Continued from page 1

a janitor in the hospital on a "gate pass" from the John Bennett Correctional Center, the medium security unit in the Fort Madison prison complex. Curtis, who has been behind bars for six years, won the gate pass — which is viewed as a step toward minimum security and future release — as part of a campaign he conducted with the support of an international defense effort on his behalf. His status is scheduled for review by the Iowa Parole Board later this year.

Curtis is imprisoned on frame-up charges of rape and burglary brought against him by the cops in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1988. He was arrested in the middle of helping to organize a defense campaign for 17 coworkers from Mexico and El Salvador who had been arrested and threatened with deportation in a government immigration raid on the Swift meatpacking plant where he worked.

Curtis, who has now been held in Investigative Segregation for nine days, categorically denies that he assaulted anyone.

Before being placed in segregation Curtis was working in the hospital with a fellow prisoner. They were on lunch break when they were approached by a guard who asked if either of them had recently been up by the entrance to the hospital. The guard said that a nurse had reported that one of the inmates slapped someone up there. When Curtis answered that he had been up there getting the lunch trays to bring to the guards and the patients, the guard asked him what he had done. Curtis responded that if the guard was planning to file charges against him, he should do so and then he would get a response. The guard told Curtis to sit down and wait.

Curtis described what happened next. After five minutes, a group of other guards came in led by a captain from Internal Affairs. He asked Curtis what he had done. Curtis repeated that if they were planning to issue a "report" against him — to charge him with violating some disciplinary rule — they should do so and he would respond. The captain then told the other guards to handcuff Curtis, that they had one who was going to jail. Curtis told the *Militant* that the captain then turned to Curtis and said, "See how easy that was?"

'Friends in Des Moines'

According to Curtis, the officer then asked him if he needed to be held in "protective custody." Curtis answered no. The captain then told Curtis that he knew that he had all those friends in Des Moines helping him out. I thought maybe we could help you out too, he added. Des Moines is the headquarters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, which organizes support for Curtis and his effort to win his freedom.

While being held in Investigative Segregation, Curtis is in a cell by himself on one of the special disciplinary segregation units in the prison. He is restricted to three showers and shaves a week. He is kept in his cell for 23 hours a day, allowed out only for one hour for exercise.

For the first week in the segregation unit, he has been restricted to exercising alone in a chain fence enclosed pen roughly 20 feet by 5 feet. Most, but not all, of Curtis's papers and books have been moved from the Bennett Center to his new detention cell. However, he is not allowed to have either his typewriter, which he uses to correspond with supporters around the world, or his tape player.

"There was no reason for Curtis to be thrown into lockup in the first place," John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said in an interview. "Given the remarks made to Curtis by the Internal Affairs captain about his 'friends in Des Moines' it is crystal clear that they know exactly who he is. Their goal is to throw as big a roadblock in front of Curtis's fight for p role as they can."

"We are urging supporters around the world to immediately send a fax, a telegram, or a letter to Paul Hedgepath, acting Warden of the prison at Ft. Madison, demanding that Curtis be released from lockup," continued Studer. Protest messages should be sent to Paul Hedgepath, Acting Warden, Iowa State Penitentiary, Ft. Madison, Iowa 52627, or faxed to (319) 372-6967. Copies of protest letters should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, or faxed to (515) 243-9869.

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The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

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ILLINOIS

Chicago

Mobilize Against Racist Terror. An Eyewitness Report from Wedowee, Alabama, School Torching. Speakers: Robin Kissinger, National Committee of Young Socialists, and Socialist Workers candidate for University of Illinois Board of Trustees; Kristin Meriam, So-

cialist Workers candidate for Illinois Secretary of State, member of Young Socialists and United Transportation Union Local 1895. Sat., Sept. 3, 5 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Fight Against Racism and the Crisis of Leadership: What Way Forward? Speaker: Maceo Dixon, former socialist candidate for mayor of Boston. Sat., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Fight Against Rightist Attacks. Sat., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South Street. Donation \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Stop U.S. War Drive Against Cuba! Sat., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South Street. Donation \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Defending Women's Rights Today. Sat., Sept.

24, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South Street. Donation \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

BRITAIN

Manchester

Stop the U.S. War Drive Against Cuba! Speakers: Chris Morris, Communist League, member of AEEU, recently returned from Cuba; a member of 1994 José Martí Brigade. Sat., Sept. 10, 6 p.m. 60 Shudehill, Manchester. Donation £2. Tel: 061-839-1766.

Sheffield

Hands Off Cuba! No to U.S. Government Threats, End the Embargo! Eyewitness reports on how Cuban working people are rallying to defend their revolution. Speakers: Chris Morris, Communist League, member of AEEU, recently returned from Cuba; Paul Davies, Communist League, member of TGWU and the Cuba Solidarity Campaign. Fri., Sept. 9, 7 p.m. 1 Gower Street. Donation £2. Tel: 0742-765070.

Washington lies on Cuba immigration

Continued from page 7

all those 18 years old and above can freely travel abroad, and extended to 11 months from six months the period that a Cuban may spend abroad on a visit. It also scrapped visa requirements for Cuban citizens living abroad who want to visit the island, and said it would grant legal residence to most Cubans living in the United States who wish to return.

The big-business media, in its effort to portray Cuba as an example of the "failure of communism," makes it seem that virtually all Cubans are scrambling to abandon the island. This deliberate lie obscures the

most important fact — that a broad majority of workers and farmers in Cuba support their socialist revolution and, rather than leaving, are determined to defend it through collective work and struggle.

There are significant layers who, on the other hand, have become demoralized and see no way out except an individual — and futile — attempt to escape from the class struggle. This is especially true among middle-class layers but also includes certain layers of working people, who are the bulk of those leaving by raft. The rafters themselves, however, are a tiny percentage of Cuba's population of 10 million.

What has been blacked out in the capitalist media is the huge mobilizations of working people and revolutionary-minded youth in recent weeks, such as the 500,000 who turned out August 7 to condemn the murder of the police officer by hijackers and to express their support for what the Cuban paper *Trabajadores*, speaking for millions, aptly called "the revolution of the workers."

'Date rape' case

Continued from page 14

turned on its head by the "no-means-no" movement.

We did not stop violent rape. Then, as now, brutal rapes of women and children occurred. But at least we were never told that feminism meant we should "submit and live" every time someone tried to grope us. We had, and have, a right to tell the guy to get lost and walk away.

State leaders of NOW and others are using the recent Berkowitz ruling to climb on the "anticrime" bandwagon. Like politicians of both parties, they insist that locking up criminals is more important than democratic rights. In the name of "feminism" they present a depressing picture of both women and men — we are pathetic victims and all men are potential rapists.

They tell us to look to cops, lawmakers, and judges to protect us. They call for stiffer laws, easier convictions, sterner sentences — all of which will be used against working people, not against those who are really responsible for the oppression of women, that is the employers and their government in Washington. This is a reactionary approach, one that will never help us move forward in the fight against rape and other aspects of women's oppression.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Parole Now for Mark Curtis! Speakers: Nell Wheeler, Mark Curtis Defense Committee, member of UFCW Local 431, Des Moines, Iowa; others. Sat., Sept. 24, 7 p.m. ILWU #6, 255 9th Street (between Harrison and Folsom). Donation: \$5. For more information, call (510) 530-2577.

CONNECTICUT

Hartford

U.S. Hands off Cuba! End the Embargo! Meeting to plan actions to end the embargo and stop U.S. military threats. Wed., Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St. For more information, call (203) 286-9963.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Meeting of Activist and Supporters, Lula for President Campaign. Mon., Sept. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Partido dos Trabalhadores, 339 Lafayette Street, Room 11. For more information, call Zeze Weiss (212) 925-5299.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Stop U.S. War Threats Against Cuba! Join us in calling for: An End to U.S. Occupation of Guantánamo Bay! Tues., Sept. 6, 4 to 6 p.m., U.S. Federal Building, 125 S. State. Sponsored by Coalition Against War with Cuba. For more information, call: (801) 485-2127 (Jude); in Provo/Orem (801) 225-9376 (Alfredo).

BRITAIN

London

Protest against the U.S. War Drive on Cuba. Picket the U.S. Embassy in Grosvenor Square. Tues., Sept. 6, 6 p.m. Sponsored by Cuba Solidarity Campaign and the Communist League. For more information, call 071 253-6452.

Sheffield

Meeting to Defend Cuba. Showing of video of recent speech by Fidel Castro. Speaker: Paul Davies, recently returned from Cuba. Thurs., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. St. Matthews Rooms, Carver Street. Organized by Cuba Solidarity Campaign. For more information, call 0742-765070.

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Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Ready to go? — Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the UN, journeyed to the Pentagon's Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana to observe what one report described as "a peace enforcement exercise."



Harry
Ring

America the Beautiful — An announcement from Kenneth Cole, an upscale shoe dealer, features a photo of Nelson Mandela and others greeting the news of the ANC election victory in South Africa. An accompanying statement by

Cole — whose wit is exceeded only by his taste — declares: "A nation of people improved their standing overnight. All without our Semi-Annual Sale."

No rickshaws? — For Beijing's free-market hustlers, the new Country Horse Racing Club. In addition to the track, a golf course and a 17-story clubhouse featuring a fitness center, an English-style bar, and a French restaurant. Annual membership fees start at \$12,500.

The justice system — LOS ANGELES — O.J. Simpson's legal defense team is costing him more than \$15,000 a day, sources say. And that's just for his top

layer of lawyers." — News item.

Trigger-happy? The LAPD? — The *Los Angeles Times* studied five years of police shooting reports. It found that three out of four shootings were — by police standards — mistaken and/or dangerous. Former police chief Daryl Gates responded that the problem had never been glossed over. In fact, he advised, "We were hypercritical." (We assume the chief stumbled on that last word.)

The morality boys — Taking time out from denying charges that the Miss Puerto Rico beauty contest had been fixed, a spokesman explained why Brenda Robles, last year's winner, had not crowned her

successor as expected. He said contest organizers had been "shocked" to see on TV that Robles, who is not legally wed, was obviously expecting.

Has a good background — Bored with his career as a minister, Philip Gittings hired on with a job agency and also works as a free-lance corporate consultant. One of his specialties, reports the *New York Times*, is advising companies on matters like "how to calm workers after big layoffs."

No rust — Larry Dean sold his Atlanta software company and built a king-size mansion, which he's now trying to unload for \$40 million. Many features, including

bathrooms that look like Egyptian tombs. Neatest of all, the master bed, which is sculpted like an iris. To give it "depth and glow," it's finished with 14 layers of a special automotive paint used on Corvettes.

First things first — "Churches cut back handicap ministries to balance budgets." — News headline.

"Heals on Wheels" — For the stressed-out Big Apple exec who doesn't have time to hit the couch: Mobile Psychological Services. Therapy in an unmarked van while rushing to the airport, commuting home, etc. Only \$175 an hour, not much more than a New York cab.

Irish magazine: Documents of 1920 Congress of Communist International are 'gripping reading'

The review printed below appeared in the *Irish Slavonic Studies*, a publication of the Department of Russian, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

Workers of the World and Oppressed Peoples, Unite! (The Communist International in Lenin's Time: Proceedings and Documents of the Second Congress, 1920), 2 vols., edited by John Riddell. Pathfinder, New York, 1992. xiii + 835 pp. Maps. Photographs. Notes. Chronology. Glossary. Appendixes. Bibliography. Index. \$35.00 per volume; \$60.00 (two-volume set).

BY MICHAEL WALLER

KEELE, Ireland — In many ways these two volumes represent the culmination of John Ridell's monumental record of the

astatingly brought into question.

The first and easiest judgment that can be made on these two volumes is that John Riddell has produced a work that is commensurate with the gravity of the moment. Every care has been taken to provide a sense of the occasion that the congress represented, and that sense is enhanced by the photographs that each volume contains. A page and a half of acknowledgments records the substantial number of people who contributed to the production of the collection, the main bulk of the work being done by the Pathfinder staff team, with financial aid from the Anchor Foundation. The translations are extremely good, and the overall presentation is impressive. The reader is given all that he or she needs in order to gain a full understanding of who was

who and of what was going on. Very full glossaries in each volume provide biographical details and historical information, and there are useful chronologies and footnotes.

The reader need hardly be reminded that it was at the second congress of the Comintern that three major issues in particular were debated that were of major international importance within the labour movement: the strategy to be adopted in relation to the trade unions, to reformist political parties (yielding the 'twenty-one conditions for acceptance of a party into the Third [Communist] International' which split the European left), and, in the colonial world, to bourgeois nationalist movements. Each of these is well treated in the introduction, the documentation is impressive, and the translations make easy reading. For the way in which these three issues are presented, this work is certain to be an invaluable source for researcher and student alike.



Humbert-Droz Archives
Closing session of congress in Moscow, Aug. 7, 1920.

John Riddell himself contributes a handy introduction which, again, gives a full sense of the drama of the congress even in the context of its own time. It does more than that, however. Riddell is among those for whom the ideas that informed the ac-

tions of the participants in those revolutionary events have not receded into Fukuyama's limbo.

Many of those who have an interest in reading these pages will themselves have rehearsed in countless gatherings one or other of the various positions in the debates on the left since those revolutionary days at the other end of the century. Many will disagree with the views that Riddell puts forward in his introduction. But now, all passion spent, fewer than heretofore may be inclined to quibble with the presentation of Stalin as heading "the petty-bourgeois social layer that gained decisive influence in the Comintern during the second half of the 1920s and the 1930s." Most important, after all, is the fact that commitment and a sense of the urgency of political issues bring a text to life. If this

very solid two-volume collection of documents makes surprisingly gripping reading it is partly because of the historical irony contributed by recent events, but partly also because Riddell communicates a sense of the relevance of the congress itself.

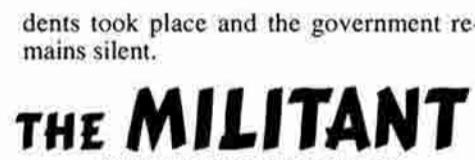
-25 AND 50 YEARS AGO



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September 9, 1944

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Aug. 27 — Beirut was host today to a massive demonstration by its citizens. Many thousands of men and women, young and old, poured out into the streets to join a funeral procession for a young commando slain last Sunday in an Israeli air attack in Jordan.

At the same time, about 35 miles to the south, in the Palestinian refugee center of Saida, another funeral demonstration was also in progress for two Al Fatah commandos. Since Saida has such a large Palestinian population, demonstrations there are usually larger than the ones in Beirut.

The people overwhelmingly support the guerrilla fighters, but this appears not to be the case with the Lebanese government.

When these fedayeen, wearing camouflage dress and carrying machine guns, arrived at the Lebanese border Aug. 26, they were refused permission to enter the country.

The Lebanese army officer in charge of that point of the border even called in reinforcements in the form of extra troops and a cover of jet fighters. The officer claimed that he acted on no less authority than the office of the Ministry of the Interior.

During all of this a huge crowd had gathered and started to become quite unfriendly to the soldiers. Finally, the crowd surged through the border, physically surrounded the Fatah vehicles and shoved their way back across the border. No further inci-

With the tide of revolution steadily rising over all Europe, Pope Pius XII has issued a frantic appeal to the European workers to respect the system of capitalist private property and not resort to "subversion and violence" in order to end the miseries imposed on them by their rulers and exploiters.

The Pope's speech, broadcast to the world from Vatican City last week, is the most significant admission to date by any spokesman of capitalism, that the old order, rotted to its very foundations, is tottering on the brink of collapse. In the clearest possible terms it voices the mortal fear of the criminal rulers of Europe and their imperialist allies that capitalism faces utter destruction at the hands of the insurrectionary masses.

The Pope is especially alarmed by the increasingly revolutionary mood of the Italian masses, the growth of revolution right on his own doorstep. Last July on the eve of the overthrow of [Benito] Mussolini, the Pope spoke out, not to encourage the Italian masses to rid themselves of the black dictatorship which had had them by the throat for twenty years, but to decry any revolutionary action against the Fascist regime.

He then warned against "false prophets" who, he said, "would have us believe that salvation must come from a revolution."

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Why Wall Street hates Castro

Hundreds of working people, joined by youth and others, have organized picket lines in dozens of cities demanding the U.S. government get out of Guantánamo, end its criminal economic and information embargo against Cuba, and stop its lies about the Cuban revolution. More and bigger protest actions like these are needed. More efforts are necessary to organize educational meetings and distribute the books and newspapers that tell the truth about Cuba and the achievements of its socialist revolution.

Washington is not wavering from acting on its almost 35-year-long strategic goal to weaken, divide, and ultimately overthrow the government and communist leadership in Cuba.

The Pentagon is rapidly turning the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo — on Cuban soil stolen and held by force against the wishes of the Cuban people — into a powder keg. Already, nearly 20,000 Cubans picked up at sea are crowded there in tent camps under sweltering heat with no running water for most, scant health services, and no idea of what is in store for them. They join 15,000 Haitians long incarcerated there under the same inhuman conditions. U.S. bulldozers are clearing land to detain tens of thousands more Cubans on the base, indefinitely. Many in the camps have begun protesting against their situation.

Recipe for explosion

This is a recipe for an explosion. Any incident across the heavily mined border with the Republic of Cuba, next to which the detention camps are set up, could be used by Washington as a pretext for military action. The attempt by 28 asylum-seeking Cubans to enter the base August 31 — during which three were injured by an explosion in the minefield that protects Cuba from the imperialist beachhead on its own territory — is one example. The injuries were blatantly orchestrated by U.S. officers who forced the Cubans back onto the minefields after they had reached the base safely. Stating openly that the situation at Guantánamo is dangerous, the Pentagon has begun withdrawing U.S. civilians, mostly women and children, from the base.

In addition, Washington is already implementing Clinton's new regulations banning travel to Cuba to all but regularly employed journalists, government officials, and specially licensed researchers. In a blatant violation of the freedom of the press, federal agents have even begun harassing some reporters on their way to the island. The White House also barred Cuban-Americans and other U.S. residents from sending money to relatives and friends in Cuba.

Clinton's aggressive measures have emboldened ultra-rightist outfits that advocate and carry out terrorist actions "to get rid of Castro." This is what the recent cowardly attack on the Cuban Mission to the United Nations in New York was all about — an attack impossible to carry out without the complicity of the New York City cops permanently stationed on the scene and assigned to protect the mission. Working people should demand that those responsible for the August 30 assault be arrested and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

As they have done for decades, these paramilitary groups maintain training camps in Florida with the full knowledge of federal, state, and local government officials. Some of these outfits recently announced recruitment drives and are seeking to launch terrorist attacks on Cuban soil.

Talks between Washington, Havana

The White House insists the talks now under way between the U.S. and Cuban governments only take up the issue of immigration, which has been discussed often in similar meetings over the last decade. The Cuban government — which has always maintained its willingness to discuss any issues in dispute, and correctly so — is pressing to put the economic embargo on the table as well.

Washington's agreement to sit down at the negotiating table at this time does not signify an easing of its unremitting efforts to squeeze socialist Cuba economically and crush its revolution. Negotiations are one of the weapons imperialism employs to press its goals and manipulate world public opinion. Let's not forget Washington's carpet bombing of Vietnam in December 1972 — when B-52's dropped the equivalent of five atomic bombs killing and maiming tens of thousands of Vietnamese civilians — while U.S. officials were negotiating with Vietnam's representatives in Paris.

The U.S. rulers' message to Havana is simple: Either initiate reforms that open the door to eradicating the socialist character of the revolution by giving the capitalist market free reign in Cuba, as in Russia and China, or else economic strangulation and head-on confrontation are the only point on the agenda.

If Cuba were to follow the path of the regimes in Eastern Europe or in Russia, China, or Vietnam, it could obtain immediate economic benefits from Washington for a relative few. The "only" price would be giving up the

fight for a future for all.

Castro speaks the truth, with historic insight, when he insists that "socialism or death" has become the first, and only, line of defense of the Cuban revolution. He explains that any other course would mean devastation for the great majority of working people at the hands of the empire to the north — just as in "pre-Castro" Cuba. It would mean returning Havana to its previous status as a source of superprofits for the few through the exploitation of the vast majority with the accompanying and degrading prostitution, drug trade, gambling joints, and institutionalized racism. It would mean wiping away the gains of literacy and health care and education as an entitlement for all Cuban working people.

Main problem for U.S. rulers

From the day the socialist character of the revolution became clear in 1960, the main problem for the U.S. rulers has been the fact that the working class in Cuba has confidence in itself and its communist vanguard. Today that working class in its majority still remains capable and determined to defend the revolution's socialist course and its government.

The problem for Washington has always been the Cuban workers' refusal to back down from their determination to speak and act, as Castro put it in his 1979 speech to the United Nations "on behalf of the children of the world who don't even have a crust of bread."

Washington and Wall Street not only listen to what Castro says but watch carefully what he does.

They hear him explain over and over again why the problems facing the world today are a product of capitalism, why socialism is the only way forward for humanity, and why time is on the side of working people and the oppressed.

They intently observe how broad layers of the working class in Cuba respond to this fighting perspective.

They take notice that the ranks of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces act on their conviction that it is their duty to defend the socialist conquests of the revolution.

They read the editorials in *Trabajadores*.

They listen to the debates in Cuba's National Assembly and what workers say in the factory assemblies.

They see the hundreds of thousands mobilizing to express their outrage at hijackings, killings, and other U.S.-promoted provocations.

And they know the Cuban working class has not been broken. That is why the U.S. rulers remain intransigent.

When the masters of U.S. finance capital speak of a "post-Castro" Cuba or of "freedom and democracy," they mean that Cuba must start down the road of "market reforms" and a radically different kind of political leadership — a road that would inevitably end up forcing Cuban working people to submit to the domination of the law of value. And Washington is determined to achieve this goal by force and violence if necessary.

Defend Cuba

For the same reasons that Clinton and company hate and fear the Cuban people and their revolutionary leadership, working people and youth in the United States and around the world should defend Cuba and its socialist revolution.

In the negotiations that have begun in New York, the Cuban government will do its best within the current relationship of forces to defend the revolution in face of Washington's latest provocations and long-standing hostile policies.

Whatever the course of the talks, however, supporters of the Cuban revolution should be unwavering in our efforts. We must continue to organize public meetings to discuss the issues and initiate protest actions in front of federal buildings and other government offices.

An integral part of mobilizing opposition to Washington's course is getting out the books distributed by Pathfinder Press that present the record of 35 years of revolutionary struggle in Cuba. One of the best political tools is Pathfinder's *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End*, which explains the conquests of the Cuban revolution and its place in the world. If read carefully, this book makes understandable why the U.S. rulers hate and fear the Cuban working class and its communist vanguard, and why they are pressing their current policy moves with this in mind.

We must reach out to striking workers, other trade unionists, working farmers, youth defending abortion clinics or mobilizing against racist attacks, and every democratic-minded person and urge them to join in actions demanding:

U.S. out of Guantánamo!

End the unconscionable trade embargo!

Stop the lies about Cuba!

Repeal the unconstitutional travel restrictions, and the ban on sending money to Cuban citizens!

Release all Cubans and Haitians imprisoned at concentration camps!

End all immigration restrictions!

'Date rape' case displays backlash against women

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

PITTSBURGH — On May 29 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court threw out the 1988 rape conviction of then-college-student Robert Berkowitz on the grounds that it did not meet the "forcible compulsion" requirement of the state rape law. The court left standing a conviction for indecent assault (for "non-consensual" sex) and ordered Berkowitz to begin serving a six to 12 month prison sentence on the lesser charge.

This ruling generated protests around the state and calls by leaders of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and rape crisis centers for tougher laws against "date rape."

Unlike some "date-rape" or "acquaintance-rape" cases,

AS I SEE IT

in this instance there was no disagreement about what actually happened. Berkowitz and his accuser were both students at East Stroudsburg University in 1987. The woman, then 19, came to Berkowitz's room looking for his roommate. Berkowitz, who had been sleeping, asked her to sit on the bed. She declined and sat on the floor instead. He sat on the floor with her, lifted up her shirt and bra, "massaged her breasts," and untied the knot in her underpants. They both got up, he locked the door, pushed her down on the bed, removed her underpants from one leg, and penetrated her.

She testified that he did not use force or threaten or restrain her in any way, and that she made no attempt to get up and walk away or do anything to discourage him beyond uttering the word "no." Both agreed that she "repeatedly whispered 'no'" during the brief encounter.

Berkowitz was convicted of rape and sentenced to one to four years in prison. He could have gotten a 20-year sentence.

The woman who brought the charges against Berkowitz was outraged by the recent Supreme Court ruling. "I did what we were supposed to do, what everyone taught us to do in college: If we were being raped, say 'no' and don't fight, because you could wind up dead," the woman told the press.

State and local leaders of NOW have picketed outside the judges' offices and joined prosecutors and politicians in demanding stricter rape laws. Democratic state representative Karen Ritter is sponsoring legislation that would redefine "forcible compulsion" to include "not just physical force but intellectual, moral, emotional and psychological force as well." The head of the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee promises to "waste no time" in passing a new law that insures "that perpetrators will face the full penalty for rape when they refuse to take no for an answer."

District Attorney Jane Roach, who prosecuted Berkowitz, said that "'no' is enough for the nonrapist," while acknowledging that "often in true date rapes, the couple are intimately entwined, even partially disrobed," by the time the woman says "no."

"Rapists don't stop," says Roach, and she wants the law to back up her definition.

What Berkowitz did to his fellow student was wrong. In my opinion, he acted like a jerk. But he did not commit a rape. To equate what he did with rape is to trivialize a brutal crime against women. The idea that Berkowitz could have been sentenced to 20 years in prison for what he did sends chills down my spine. I think that many working people and supporters of democratic rights that are not disoriented by the hysteria around date rape would agree with me.

Berkowitz was not the only one responsible for making the young woman in this case into a helpless victim — the university counseling sessions she attended share some of the responsibility. At these sessions, the student was taught that any unwanted sexual advances constituted rape — different only in degree from cases in which the assailant held a knife to her throat or threatened to hurt her — and that her response in both cases should be to "submit and live."

This case has convinced me that there are aspects of the "no-means-no" and "date rape" campaigns that represent a real backlash against women.

One of the liberating things about the movement for women's rights that took off in the United States in the early 1970s was that it gave women the confidence to stand up for ourselves. We had a right to say what we wanted and what we didn't want when it came to sex.

We fought for the idea that even a husband was guilty of rape when he used violence to force his wife to have sex with him or when he threatened violence against her or her children. We defended Joanne Little when she killed her jailer trying to stop him from raping her. We won Rape Shield Laws to try to restrain cops, lawyers, and judges from making the rape victim into the criminal. We were proud of our physical strength and fought to get and hold jobs as coal miners, steelworkers, and construction workers. We insisted that rape was an act of violence, not sex — a concept that seems to have been

Continued on page 12

Garment workers win first union contract

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Workers at Sweet-Orr, Inc., in Madison, Georgia, unanimously approved their first union contract in early August. The workers had voted to join the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) in December 1993; negotiations began in February. Sweet-Orr workers make Boy Scout pants and shorts.

The new two-year agreement includes an 11 percent increase the first year for sewing machine oper-

gained momentum after the company began cutting wages and benefits over the past 18 months.

City workers walk out in Saskatchewan, Canada

Close to 1,000 strikers packed a city council meeting in Saskatchewan province in Canada August 15. The mayor immediately adjourned the meeting. The striking bus drivers, garbage collectors, maintenance workers, and other city employees turned out to back their unions' demand for equal treatment with other provincial and city workers in Saskatchewan.

Saskatoon city workers have been without a contract since 1991. Their unions have indicated a willingness to settle for a three-year contract based upon the wage guidelines accepted by other public sector unions in the province of no raise for 1992 and 1993 and 2.5 percent in 1994.

Saskatoon mayor Henry Dayday and the majority of the council de-

subcontract out jobs currently being performed by union members. It's demanding the right to lay off workers without respect to seniority and to get rid of the one-year right of recall after a layoff that's currently held by workers with 15 years seniority. It also wants to scrap the current 40-hour workweek and be able to call employees for work at will.

The unionists have been without a contract since February 1992. They have had no wage increase in the last three years. Several years ago they reluctantly agreed to 12-hour shifts and a seven-day operation of the mill. "If we were to accept what they are trying to impose on us, there would be nothing left worth defending in our union," said Sylvain Vallerand, who works in the laboratory. The decision to go on strike at Ogilvie was unanimous.

Many of the same job security issues are being fought out at the A.E. Staley corn processing company in Decatur, Illinois. Eight hundred workers there have been locked out for the past 14 months. ADM is a key shareholder in A.E. Staley and has made its facilities fully available to help Staley with scab operation at its plant.

The video *Deadly Corn*, produced by the union at A.E. Staley, which explains the background to the fight there, has been popular among Ogilvie strikers.

Locked-out electrical workers ratify contract

Members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 636 at Hydro Mississauga, just outside of Toronto, voted August 26 to return to work. The electrical workers ratified the company's final offer by a 68 percent margin.

Many workers felt that they were pressured by officials from the IBEW national union to accept essentially the same offer they had previously refused. They were receiving no strike benefits.



Militant/Naomi Craine
Some 100 postal workers and supporters took part in an August 19 lunchtime march and rally in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The workers are protesting government plans to privatize sections of the postal service, which will result in layoffs and other cutbacks.

ON THE PICKET LINE

ators, and an additional 2 percent increase next August. Other gains include improvements in vacation pay, holidays, and health insurance. While workers will pay \$8 a week for family coverage, this is better than the company's old plan, under which workers had to pay \$50 a week for family coverage — a "benefit" only two people in the plant could afford. ACTWU members at Sweet-Orr, most of whom are Black women, are the only union members in Morgan County, Georgia.

Earlier this summer, 175 ACTWU members at Goody's Family Clothing Inc.'s distribution center in Knoxville, Tennessee, also won their first contract, after more than two years of intermittent negotiations and a union campaign that included a boycott and picketing of Goody's retail stores around the Southeast.

Another victory in union organization was won in mid-August, when workers at Tultex Corp.'s plant in Martinsville, Virginia, voted to join ACTWU. The plant employs some 2,300 workers and makes fleece and laminated knitwear. This is the biggest single union organizing gain for ACTWU in 20 years, said officials from the union's southern regional office. The union organizing drive

cided to limit the 2.5 percent increase to the last six months of 1994. In the past couple of years the city has begun contracting out work normally done by unionized workers.

The city actually provoked an expansion of the strike when they locked out workers at the water treatment plant. Since then, garbage collectors and other city workers have joined bus drivers on the picket lines for a total of 2,200 workers on strike.

Flour mill workers strike in Montreal still solid

One hundred thirteen workers have been on strike at the Ogilvie flour mill in Montreal, Quebec, since June 6. They are up against the huge Archer Daniel Midlands (ADM) food conglomerate, which bought the Ogilvie mills in Canada earlier this year.

The workers, members of a local affiliated to the Confederation of National Trade Unions, are picketing 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are reaching out for support from other workers.

The key issue in the strike is ADM's determination to gut the workers' job and seniority protection. The company wants to introduce more temporary workers and

The 258 unionists had been locked out for the second time on July 6 following a work-to-rule campaign to back contract demands. Management first locked out the union on June 28, after workers came into the plant wearing T-shirts that read, "Solidarity Lives — IBEW Local 636." The union won an initial victory when that lockout was declared illegal by the Ontario Labor Relations Board.

Despite dissatisfaction among members with the final offer, Smith summed up the real gains of their fight. "We learned a lot, got support from other unions and gained a lot more experience, something we can all be proud of and which will help us in our fight against the city's plans to privatize the utility," she said.

Arbitrator rules against striking Westmin miners

The bitter 16-month lockout and strike against the Westmin Resources copper-zinc mine near Campbell River on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, is over. The 365 miners, members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 3019, will return to work September 6 under the terms of a decision by an arbitration panel. Both the union and employers agreed to binding arbitration on July 12.

Under the arbitrators' ruling, wages will be reduced for new hires in seven of nine lower job classifications to Can\$17 an hour from Can\$20. Current employees will continue to be paid at the old rates until the standard rate catches up with their classification. If someone who worked in the mine before the strike moves to another position because of a layoff or any other reason, they will receive the lower rate.

Workers also lost their attendance bonus and housing subsidy. The combined savings will shave \$2 million a year from Westmin's payroll. "The arbitrator has given the company some issues they could never have won on the picket line," stated Jess Succamore, western director of the CAW. "I think it's a recipe for long-term disaster."

The following people contributed to this week's column: Susan Lamont, member of ACTWU Local 365 in Austell, Georgia; Paul Kouri, member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 2952 in Vancouver, British Columbia; Roger Annis and Michel Dugré in Montreal; Sylvie Charbin, member of International Association of Machinists Local 2113 in Markham, Ontario; and Joe Young, member of the USWA in Vancouver.

LETTERS

CP rail strike

As a striking Canadian Pacific rail worker, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the farmers of North Dakota and Iowa and to all who have been adversely affected by the ongoing strike.

Please understand that we were given the choice of accepting the worst contract in North America or striking and we are doing what we have to do. The company knew full well they were forcing a strike and had been preparing for quite some time. To date they remain absolutely intransigent. Company spokesman John Bergene recently predicted a three to six month strike.

The fact that a great many U.S. farms and factories are already being hurt does not seem to faze this Canadian corporation. The lost revenues do not seem to concern this corporation. What they seemed fixed on with a monomaniacal zeal is destroying an American union and they're devoting enormous resources to that end. It appears that the one

sided class war that was the 1980s continues. There's nothing rational at all going on here.

*Jeff Grab
Lakeland, Minnesota*

Chavis and NAACP

Judge Herbert Dixon, Superior Court of Washington, D.C., ruled against ousted executive director Benjamin Chavis in Chavis's bid to retain his job. The ruling on August 23 marked the latest in a succession of events ignited by the rumors of Chavis's firing. He was terminated by the NAACP board "because he embraced conduct which is inimical to the interest of the association."

During the NAACP board's deliberations August 20 leading up to Chavis's dismissal, a pro-Chavis rally of about 200 people — mostly NAACP youth members, Nation of Islam members, and Lyndon Larouche followers — was held outside the NAACP's national headquarters. One of the rally's purposes was to show the wide following Chavis

had among the newly recruited youth he had laid claim to bringing into the organization and who would leave if he were fired.

Chavis, despite his dismissal, convened the already scheduled second AALS [African American Leadership Summit] at Bethel AME church, the day after his release. Chavis reported that close to 100 Black leaders nationwide met in closed session to continue their deliberations from the first summit on Black economic development, youth, and moral and spiritual issues.

That evening, a support Ben Chavis AALS rally was held at Enon Baptist Church, with some 400 people in attendance. Speakers included Cornell West, Ron Daniels, Sonia Sanchez, and Minister Louis Farrakhan, who spoke for over an hour. Farrakhan compared Chavis's firing to a baby that was just kicking to come out of a woman's womb. He held out Marion Barry the disposed former mayor of Washington, brought down by drug abuse and now resurrected as city councilman

running again for mayor, as an example of how a person can rise from adversity. The ousted executive director told the audience, "I dedicate my life to keeping the process of the Summit going."

*Ken Morgan
Baltimore, Maryland*

Child custody fight

On August 9, Delaware got its own "[Jennifer] Ireland" case when Family Court judge Conner awarded custody of a two-year-old boy to his father. The judge based his decision on the fact that the mother works days and would place her son in a day-care program. The mother, Tammy Lewis, and the father, Brian Leonard, were divorced last November and shared custody of their son, Dillon, until the mother got a new job and moved to New Jersey.

The father then sued for custody and Judge Conner ruled in his favor. The court said that the father's "availability to be with his son three full days and two afternoons a week outweigh the

regular schedule and routine that the mother can provide by placing him in a day-care facility five days a week." The court's decision also requires the father to move back in with his parents.

The Delaware NOW chapter has come to the defense of the mother and child. In a press conference Mary-Elise Haug said that this decision "strikes at the heart of women's economic gains. It is telling women that you can't work and retain custody." The decision is being appealed to the State Supreme Court. NOW is filing an Amicus brief in the case. A protest rally sponsored by Delaware NOW and the NARAL chapter was called for August 25.

*Roy Inglee
Wilmington, Delaware*

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Unionists turn back scabs in Decatur

BY BETH FINNEAS

DECATUR, Illinois — In the pre-dawn hours of August 25, workers gathered by the hundreds at the Allied Industrial Workers union hall here. They came from Caterpillar Inc., a struck plant of 1,200, and from A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co., a producer of corn sweeteners that locked out workers in a contract dispute more than a year ago. The unionists joined rubber workers who have been on strike since July 12 against the Bridgestone/Firestone company, which is demanding mandatory 12-hour shifts, cutbacks in medical coverage, and a 30 percent wage cut for new hires.

By 5:30 a.m. more than 500 people had assembled to march to the struck tire plant. They were protesting Firestone's plan to hire 30 strikebreakers that day. Most were wearing the red T-shirts that have become the symbol of the three strikes here. Pickets packed the two gates leading into the plant. As salaried personnel and strikebreakers arrived, one by one they were turned away by the strikers and their supporters.

"This is a great day for labor," proclaimed one of the United Auto Workers (UAW) members present. It was clear that others agreed, as chants went up of "we are union!" and applause and cheers rang out each time a scab decided not to run the gauntlet of picketers at the gate.

Following the successful action, the strikers marched from Firestone to the Decatur Caterpillar plant for a rally at the gate there. "We've done everything they asked us to make the company more competitive," stated Bonnie Stolte, a tire builder at the plant with 16 years seniority. "But they're still not satisfied."

"Some jobs require lifting 50 to 100 pounds regularly," she stated. "There's no way a woman or a man can do that continuously for 12 hours every single day."

"How much profit do they have to have to be globally competitive?" asked Joseph Zerfowski, a striker with 21 years at Firestone. "They just don't care about the workers, whether you can have a social life or family life."

Discussion on how to stop scabs

The Firestone action contributed to the discussion among strikers about what can be done to stop scabs — a problem plaguing all three strikes here. Since Caterpillar workers walked out on June 20 in their current unfair labor practice strike, management has gotten some union members to cross, in addition to management personnel and new hires. Staley workers were locked out when management brought in a new scab workforce to run that plant.

"We believe a better alternative would be to join our strike," reads a leaflet distributed by UAW members to Caterpillar job applicants in Decatur. "You can come to the UAW hall for further details and to sign up for strike pay and insurance," it continues.

One Bridgestone/Firestone striker in Decatur didn't like the anti-Japan axis that



Strikers from Caterpillar, Firestone/Bridgestone, and A.E. Staley company mass outside Firestone plant gate to prevent scabs from gaining entry August 25.

union officials are putting forward in the strike, ostensibly because the company is owned by wealthy families in Japan. "This is just not the way to go," said Jim Calvert, remarking on pictures hung of the World War II battle at Iwo Jima and references to Pearl Harbor on the union sign near the plant's main gate. "It would be interesting to talk to Bridgestone workers in Japan,"

he added.

UAW Local 751 vice president John Doedtman reported that "around 20 of the new hires here have worked a short period of time and then came out to join the union and the strike."

Workers have also begun to reach out to other unions. UAW strike activist Randy Morell was one of several who responded

to an invitation from a UAW local in Bloomington, Indiana, where strikers told their story and collected donations for the families of those walking the picket line.

In East Peoria, 75 strikers and supporters confronted strikebreakers August 30, at two gates of the huge Caterpillar facility there.

Unionists are building participation in the Decatur and Peoria area Labor Day activities, which will be another opportunity to reach out beyond the membership of the striking unions.

In both Decatur and Peoria, Manpower and other employment agencies have been recruiting young people to cross the picket lines for temporary jobs.

"Youth need to be oriented to the labor movement," said Stolte. "We're fighting for their future, and we need them to be part of the fight today, not crossing the picket line."

At an early morning mass picket outside the Firestone plant on August 29, three strikers were injured when a scab in a pickup truck intentionally drove through the line. Striker Roger Walker was sent to the hospital. Edith Marques, also grazed by the truck, told the *Militant*, "It was a peaceful, legal picket line. We were turning most people away just like last Thursday, including the office workers and management people."

Decatur authorities have leveled an injunction against the strikers, limiting the pickets at Firestone to four per gate, reported Bill Donaldson from the URW hall. But strikers are determined to continue the fight, and are discussing further activities.

Seattle machinists tour UAW strikers

BY HARVEY MCARTHUR

SEATTLE — "Kenworth won't let them in the plant, but Joyce's will. Two striking Caterpillar workers would love to talk with you after work today." — Notice posted by International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 289 in the Kenworth Truck assembly plant in Seattle August 17.

A few hours later 30 Kenworth workers gathered at Joyce's, a bar across the street, to talk with Caterpillar strikers Bob Dunn and Mike Masching and United Auto Workers (UAW) International representative Ken Jordan.

IAM Local 289 president Linda Blaney told the workers this was the first time Kenworth management had ever denied a union request to tour the plant. Just that morning, she said, the union found out that Kenworth was hosting a celebration with Caterpillar executives at the nearby Renton assembly plant.

"That's no surprise," one worker commented. "The bosses always stick together and we workers have got to do the same." The strikers led a two-hour discussion and

showed videos about their fight on the bar's big-screen TV.

"Caterpillar is making record profits," Masching explained, "but they want to cut medical benefits for retirees and start new hires at only \$7 an hour. We said no! We made a commitment not to sell out the new hires or retirees."

Masching and Dunn described the speedup, harassment, and abuse workers suffered at the hands of management over the two years leading up to the current strike. Nearly 100 workers, including Dunn and Masching, were fired for union activity during this period. They described how workers began to organize rallies and meetings inside the plants, wearing union shirts and buttons, and slowing down production to put pressure on the company. This led to the national strike against Caterpillar that began June 21.

"This meeting made the strike more real and understandable," commented Kathy Hermann, a motor department worker. "It's good to meet the strikers in person and hear their story."

Several workers asked why new Caterpillar engines were still being delivered to Kenworth each day. The auto workers answered that Caterpillar had stockpiled parts in anticipation of the strike, but also noted that some union members had crossed the picket lines and Caterpillar was hiring strikebreakers in an attempt to supply big customers such as Kenworth.

"The only way the company can win is if they divide us," Masching said. "With solidarity, we'll win for sure."

This led to some discussion about building more support for the strike among workers here. "We're all in this together," said motor mechanic Charlie Day. "It doesn't matter where you work, we're all part of the laboring class and should stick together and stand up to the companies."

Rachel Knapik, a tool room worker at the Renton plant, reported that Kenworth bosses kept a celebration with Caterpillar executives a secret until the last minute. Some workers nonetheless refused to par-

icipate in the cake-and-ice cream event, held to mark the 100,000th Caterpillar engine installed in a Kenworth truck.

"Some of us were really angry that Kenworth was defying the strike so blatantly," she said. "We would have gone and stood in the front row wearing UAW strike shirts if we had known in advance."

The strikers gave Knapik a bundle of their red shirts, and she quickly distributed them to other workers who wore them in the plant the next day.

The meeting with Kenworth workers was part of a six-day Caterpillar strike solidarity tour sponsored by IAM Locals 289 and 2202 and the King County Labor Council. Airline workers from TWA contributed buddy passes to subsidize the cost of bringing the strikers from Illinois to Seattle.

IAM Local 2202 hosted the strikers at their annual union picnic and again at a monthly union meeting, where the auto workers spent hours talking with individual workers from Alaska Airlines and TWA. A mechanic at Alaska arranged to tour the strikers through the hangers and break room one evening.

The auto workers also addressed a meeting of the King County Labor Council and brought greetings to a Teamsters health and welfare conference.

In Tacoma, Washington, local unions invited the auto workers to set up a booth during the annual Solidarity Day at Cheney baseball stadium. They distributed flyers, sold T-shirts, and discussed the strike for hours as 10,000 fans — many of them union members — entered the stadium.

The auto workers also participated in a similar Solidarity Day at the ballpark in Everett, Washington. Local union officials made an announcement about the Caterpillar strike and took a collection during the game.

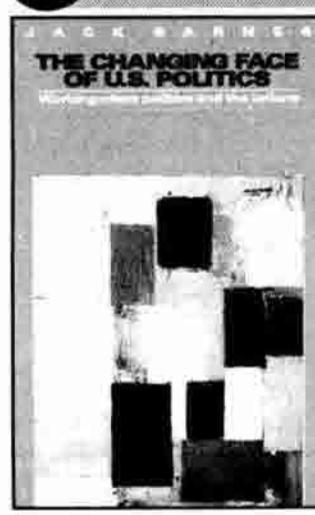
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